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Annmarie T. Muna is named the 2019 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year.



### NATION

Severe storms are sweeping across southern portions of the U.S. and up into the Midwest.

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Iran acknowledges that it shot down a Ukrainian jetliner by accident, killing 176 people.

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**2** MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Local

# Judge turns down ex-firefighter bid to have his sentence cut

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Friday a request of a former firefighter to have his 30-year prison term in a sex exploitation case reduced.

Manglona said that Richard Sullivan Benavente's letter dated Nov. 17, 2019, presents no evidence or argument that

allows a term of imprisonment to be modified once it is already imposed.

The judge said she interprets the letter as a motion for a sentencing modification.

Manglona said a "judgment of conviction that includes a sentence of imprisonment constitutes a final judgment and may not be modified by a district court except in limited circumstances."

Benavente has been serving

a 30-year prison term in a federal prison in the U.S. mainland for sexually exploiting two female minors.

In the letter that was filed in court last Dec. 30. Benavente begged to Manglona to reduce his sentence, saying his crime will haunt him for the rest of his life. The former firefighter apologized to the girls and their family, to the court, and community, for what he did.

He said he was under the in-

fluence of methamphetamine or "ice" and wasn't thinking straight when he committed the crime.

Last April, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decided not to entertain further filings in Benavente's case, saying the case is already closed.

Benavente is currently in a prison in New York.

In October 2017, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District his plea agreement.

In 2013, a federal grand jury indicted Benavente on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He cooperated with authorities and entered into a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

In 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sexual exfor drugs, and had violated ploitation of a child.

### Woman sues over alleged injuries from fall at Taste of the Marianas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Court's imposition of 30-year

prison sentence on Benavente.

navente in 2016 to the statu-

tory maximum after explain-

ing that the defendant had

enticed or coerced the two

minors into sex in exchange

Manglona sentenced Be-

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A woman is suing the U.S. government, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, and the Pacific-West Region of the National Park Service over the injuries she allegedly suffered when she tripped over one of the wires in the grassy area of the American Memorial Park in Garapan where she and her family had just attended an event in 2018.

Alyssa Jade Nunez, a U.S. citizen, claims that the fall fractured the elbow of her right arm. She is suing the defendants for negligence before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Nunez, through counsel David G. Banes, said she had to travel to the Philippines to undergo surgery and later underwent physical therapy.

Nunez asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay her damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

According to the complaint filed in court Friday, the incident happened in May 2018, when the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Pacific-West Region Division of the National Park jointly organized and hosted the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park.

Banes said between the grassy area and the stage of the event, there were wires extending between low cement posts that was about 1 to 2 feet above the ground. Banes

said those wires and the low cement posts had been put up by NPS PWR Division long before the event.

The lawyer said all NPS PWR Division employees knew or should have known that those wires presented a significant tripping hazard to park visitors, especially when it was dark because the grassy area is poorly lit in the evening.

Banes said there were no signs to warn people of the tripping hazard created by the wires, or ward off the entire surrounding area to prevent people from walking across where the wires were.

Banes said that on May 19, 2018, Nunez went to attend the event with her family members. He said Nunez and her family arrived at the park and parked their car in the grassy area between the back of the stage and the northern boundary of Coral Tree Avenue.

After attending the event, Nunez and her family members walked toward the grassy area to get back to their vehicle. While walking, Nunez allegedly tripped over one of the wires and fell forward. As a result, she fractured her right elbow.

Banes said the range of motion of Nunez's arm is likely to be permanently reduced as a result of her injuries.

Banes said Nunez provided notice of her claim to the National Park Service regarding her injuries and damages. In her notice, Nunez claimed damages in the amount of \$500,000. To date, Banes said, the defendants have not responded to Nunez's claim.

### Adrian David makes it to Dean's List

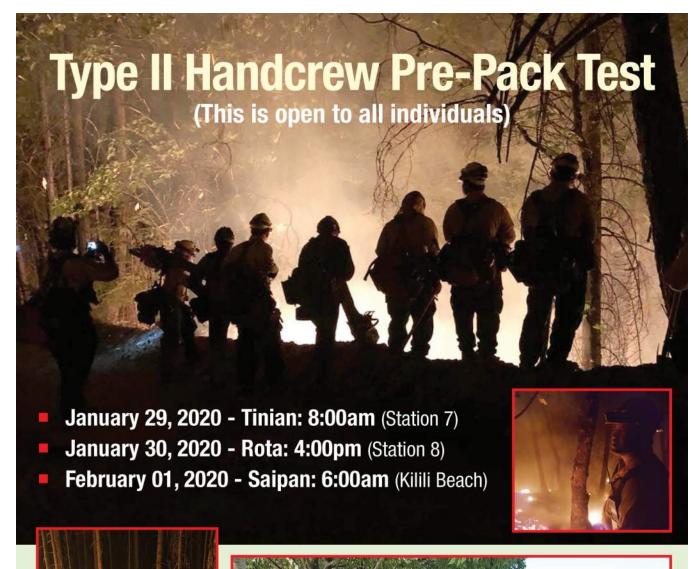
ST. GEORGE, Utah—In a display of academic achievement, 18% of Dixie State University students earned president's and dean's list recognition for the fall 2019 semester.

Specifically, 1,978 students were included on the university's honor rolls, with 816 students on the President's List and 1,162 on the Dean's List. Inclusion indicates students' strong commitment to their academic pursuits, as

they must achieve a semester GPA of 3.9 or higher to be included on the President's List and a GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 for the Dean's List. Both lists require students to complete a minimum of 15 credits.

Adrian David, from Saipan, was among the 1,978 students awarded inclusion on the honor roll for the fall 2019 semester.

To learn more about Dixie State University, visit dixie. edu. *(PR)* 



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# **Pathologist** agrees to handle NMI autopsies

By IVA MAURIN

iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com

The Office of the Attorney General has finally inked an agreement with a pathologist who would do the autopsies on four bodies in the CNMI, three of which relate to cases that remain unresolved since late last year.

"We have just executed the agreement this morning with [the] pathologist and I hope and pray that [he/she] will be

next here week. We're talking about a pathologist out of Hawaii," Attorney General Edward Manibusan said in an interview Friday. "[This is] for



Manibusan

all the pending cases: the two victims that were shot in San Antonio, one traffic fatality, and the one at the beach side in Marpi."

The pathologist will be examining the bodies of Li Na Lim, 43, and Linhua Cui, 53, both found dead inside the Rice Cake Best Food Restaurant in San Antonio in the morning of Dec. 13, 2019; the body of Sergio Apostol, 62, victim of a fatal auto collision in Puerto Rico on Dec. 16, 2019; as well as the decomposing body of a still unidentified man found in a cove of Bird Island in Marpi in Nov. 25, 2019.

Manibusan said the OAG has been working hard for the last several weeks to get the pathologist to come out on Saipan.

"It has been [a] very difficult process. We are dealing with medical examiners who have [a] variety of work somewhere else, and flying out here is not that very easy. So, it's been very difficult," the attorney general added.

"I've been in communication with the family, with consular officers concerned in this case, and they're all happy that we're doing it. They wanted us to do it today but we can't. We have some limitations. So, it's one of our projects that we are really trying to push forward and we hope to get it done soon," he added.

Autopsies on the bodies had been put on hold due to the lack of a medical examiner to conduct post-mortem forensic investigations following the retirement of Dr. Aurelio Espinola, the only forensic pathologist in the Marianas, in Janu-

ary last year, at the age of 77.

An autopsy determines the cause and manner of a person's death, with the medical

son's death was a result of a criminal act.

In an interview with the De-

June 2019, DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan said that the department has always

examiner to certify if a per- partment of Public Safety in been affected by not having a CNMI-based forensic pathologist, even more so without one based in the Marianas.













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# Girl Scouts to sell cookies

By JUSTINE NAUTA

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The Northern Mariana Island Girls Scouts will be selling Girl Scout cookies next month, according to NMI Girl Scout registrar Jaki Fujihira.

It was decided at a Girls Scouts meeting last Jan. 11 at the Fiesta Resort

& Spa in Garapan to go ahead with the cookie sale—a fundraising event. Fujihira said this will be the first time ever that the NMI Girl Scout will be selling Girl Scout cookies. "[We] are excited for the growth and continuation in the years to come," Fujihira said.

It was also decided at the meeting that the scouts who joined only last

& Spa in Garapan to go ahead with the October 2019 will also be involved in selling Girl Scout cookies this year.

The NMI Girl Scouts' target this year is to get a "census based on experience and sales to better the many more years of Girl Scout cookies to come," according to Fujihira.

"We'd like to ask the community for their continued support to help this Girl Scouts project be successful. The purpose of the cookie program is the help girls learn entrepreneurship and leadership skills. What better way to show continued support than by volunteering for our program or becoming a troop leader to help our girls," she added.

The cookie sale will also help fund events for the NMI Girl Scout to achieve badges and to also organize events for those badges.

The NMI Girl Scout will be advertising more details of their cookie booths to the community on social media, radio, and newspaper.

"We've had a tremendous amount of support from our community already with events to help the girls earn badges and patches. And we are more than grateful. To the community," said Fujihira.

For more details, email nmiregistrar@usagso.org.

# Saipan Teen Poetry Slam workshop tomorrow

By JUSTINE NAUTA

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The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will be hosting a free poetry workshop for their annual Saipan Teen Poetry Slam tomorrow, Jan. 14, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The free workshop on poetry writ-

ing and public speaking will be from 8:30am to 11:30am and is open to youth ages 13 to 19 who have received permission from a parent/guardian and their school (if applicable) to attend. Seating is limited to the first 20 to sign up with permission. The workshop is not mandatory for those who wish to compete.

The annual Saipan Teen Poetry

Slam itself will be held on Feb. 28 as part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The competition is open to ages 13 to 19. Participants will compete and perform original poetry about teen dating violence and/or healthy relationships. The poems and performances will be judged on quality of writing, entertainment value of the

poem, connection to the audience, and relevance to Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Poems should not have real names or profanity, and performances should not be longer than 5 minutes. The competition will have two divisions: For those 13 years old to 15 years old and those who are 16 years old to 19 years old.

Each competitor will be performing one poem and contestants should

present their own poem as originally submitted, with no changes or additions to the written content.

Those who are interested in competing should submit their poems and contact information to info@endviolencenmi.org on or before 11:59pm on Feb. 19, 2020.

For more information contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878.

### **ALMOST**

From Page 1

At 11:45am last Friday, IPI construction workers were seen piling out by the dozens from the IPI casino-resort project site after three men were rushed out of the jobsite to the Commonwealth Health Center after sustaining major injuries from the collapse.

The three were said to be local resident workers—two Chamorro and one Chuukese.

One of the three workers told Saipan Tribune Saturday afternoon that his injuries were so extensive that they may prevent him from getting back to work for a long time. Still, he said he was fortunate to have escaped the fall with his life.

traumatized. Imagine almost 1,200 lbs of marble walls are on that scaffolding when the platform snapped. We fell on the garden and that saved us," said the worker, who asked that his name be withheld pending further investigation of the accident.

He said he sustained three broken ribs, a broken ankle (left foot), and a huge laceration on his forehead.

"My left arm [was] crushed and my nerves are numb. According to the doctor, my fifth to seventh ribs are broken," said the worker, adding that he was treated at the emergency room of the CHC for about six hours and later he had to return to the hospital because he could not breathe.

The worker also said he's waiting for doctor's order for a possible medical referral and, with the serious injuries he suffered and the required follow-up visits at the hospital, he is worried he may not able be able to help his family financially because he has to stop working for a while.

"I don't know how I am going to support my family because I will be in and out of the hospital for more than 90 days," he said.

When asked, the worker said that IPI or any of its representatives has yet to reach out to him or his family as of Saturday afternoon.

### Unexpected collapse

According to one of the workers at



Construction workers at the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casinoresort project in Garapan stand around while waiting for the job site to be cleared for entry last Friday.

the site, he believes the scaffolding of the third floor collapsed, which caused one man, who was on top of the platform, to fall from the third floor to the first floor of the building while two other men, who were below the scaffold, to fall from the second to the first floor.

A scaffold is a temporary structure on the outside of a building, usually made of wooden planks and metal poles used by workers while constructing, repairing, or cleaning a building.

A CHC source said that two of the men sustained critical injuries while one of the men sustained a foot injury.

In a statement later sent to the media, IPI said they pray for the speedy recovery of the workers involved and that they will cooperate fully with the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration and the Department of Public Works on investigating the cause of the accident.

IPI said it's always unfortunate that incidents happen at construction site.

"We will continue to uphold and enforce high safety standards," IPI said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios also expressed concern for the construction workers' health and welfare in a statement to the media.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the workers who were involved in the accident...as well as with their families. We are grateful to our enforcement agencies and first responders for providing medical attention and to stop work until we deem the site safe and healthy for construction to continue. Our office, through our departments and agencies, closely monitored the situation throughout the afternoon to ensure that proper enforcement and protocol were established."

### **Under investigation**

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release any information on the incident or the status of the injured workers. DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan said the case remains under investigation and they will release information once details are available.

DFEMS reported that the department received a forwarded dispatch call on Friday at 11:24am from a male individual reporting multiple injuries from a collapsed scaffolding at the IPI construction site. DFEMS responded immediately with Medic-2 from the Garapan Fire Station arriving on site at 11:25am. Medic-1 from Susupe Fire station and Engine-2 from the Garapan Fire station were also sent to the scene.

At the scene, DFEMS personnel found three injured patients: two patients were on their backs while the third patient was sitting.

Patient 1, a 48-year-old Chamorro male, was complaining of chest pain and difficulty breathing. Based on DFEMS assessment, the patient reportedly sustained a 1 1/2-inch laceration to his forehead. The patient stated he was working alongside another male individual when the manmade scaffolding fell on top of them,

causing them to fall one story below.

Patient 2, a 48-year-old Chuukese male, was complaining of bodywide pain and said he was working alongside Patient 1.

Both patients said they did not lose consciousness. Both men were fully demobilized using a cervical collar and spine board to prevent any further injuries.

Patient 3, a 20-year-old Chamorro male, was complaining of bodywide pain and said he was working on top of the scaffold when it collapsed. He stated he fell about 10 feet, or one story, down and landed on his back but remained conscious.

Upon DFEMS assessment, the man reportedly had signs of swelling on his lower left le,g along with multiple contusions and abrasions to his lower back.

All three patients were treated and transported to CHC's Emergency Room.

### 'Quick response'

The statement from the Governor's Office said that government enforcement agencies responded to the accident at once, that throughout the day, first responders and officials from DPS, DFEMS, Department of Public Works, the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Commonwealth Casino Commission were active at the scene in conducting enforcement and implementing additional protective measures to ensure safety and compliance with Commonwealth and federal law.

Police officers directed traffic, cleared the area for firefighters and additional emergency medical technicians, and conducted interviews with eyewitnesses at the scene. After additional interviews at the hospital and inspections at the site, officials confirmed that the accident occurred as a result of the collapsed scaffolding.

Later that afternoon, DPW Building Safety officials inspected the site of the accident and issued a stopwork order at the construction site. DOL-OSHA officials were also onsite to assist in the assessment.

DPW will be reassessing the site this week with the construction site's

Quality Control manager and DOL-OSHA. Construction will be allowed to resume after it is determined that the site's working conditions are safe and healthy for construction workers. The CCC's Division on Enforce-

The CCC's Division on Enforcement and Investigation were on-site that afternoon as well to monitor the situation, which did not have an impact on gaming operations. The CCC, in addition to the other agencies, will continue to monitor the situation.

Last Saturday morning, the Torres administration had a meeting with DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero, DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, Secretary of Public Works James Ada, and Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente to discuss the after-action reports and next steps to prevent this from occurring again. CHCC has confirmed with the Governor's Office that the three individuals will be provided necessary treatment and recovery.

"Our top priority is to ensure everyone at the site, as well as everyone around the CNMI's jobsites, can return home safely to their families at the end of each day. We have implemented safety processes and protocols to ensure jobsites remain safe. Both IPI, other developers, and construction partners are cooperating fully with local and federal law," the statement from Governor's Office read.

It added that DPW and DOL will be conducting site assessments to ensure a safer work environment for the future, and the CCC will continue their work of enforcing the casino operations.

"We will continue to share additional information as it becomes available. This administration remains committed to ensure that the project is completed safely, and we will continue to effectively respond to any incident at any one of the jobsites around the CNMI."

This is not the first time an accident happened at the IPI construction site. A 43-year-old Chinese worker was killed at the site in 2017 after falling off a scaffold. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has also identified other safety violations. (With reports from Ferdie de la Torre)

# NMTI to convert Kobler Gym into classrooms

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute is working on converting the Koblerville Gymnasium into classrooms for "soft trades" like math, English, computers, and more.

In an interview, NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said the institute is waiting on funding from the Community Development Block Grant program under the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's typhoon relief program to renovate the Koblerville Gym and turn it into

### Search for KHS threat perp continues address and that student de-

The Department of Public Safety is still looking for the individual who sent out an email last week through a student email threatening to bring a gun and shoot people at Kagman High School.

DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan said last Friday that the KHS case is still under investigation and he is urging anyone who might have an information on who the perpetrator is to come forward and share any details that could help the case.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, DPS received a 911 call from Kagman High School main office around 10:27am last Wednesday reporting an email threat sent to the school.

At about 10:30am, police officers met with Kagman High principal Leila Staffler, who showed officers that an email was sent to her school email address from a student's email address.

The principal met with the student who owned the email

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nied sending the email. Upon further investigation, it was

found that the student was

transitioning to another class

at the time when the email

was sent. It is now believed

that the student may have left

his/her email account logged

in at one of the school's com-

puters and another student

may have gone online using

The school was later

searched for weapons and,

after finding nothing, the

school was cleared at approxi-

er Dr. Alfred Ada said that

threats, especially of that se-

verity, are not taken lightly

and the perpetrator will face

major consequences like ex-

The case remains ongoing

and if you have any informa-

tion on this incident, call 911.

If you wish to remain anony-

mous, call the CNMI Crime

Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

(Kimberly A. Bautista)

pulsion, if it was a student.

Commission-

the logged-in account.

mately 12pm.

Education

"CDBG included us in the funding of \$2 million to reno-

vate the gym in Kobler so it will no longer be a gym, but it will become classrooms. We haven't really looked at what kind of design we would like to do yet," she said.

McPhetres said the \$2 mil-

lion will allow NMTI to renovate the entire gym and they plan to use the new facility as soft trade classrooms for required classes.

McPhetres said it is necessary to relocate the NMTI classrooms because the current classrooms in Lower Base suffered greatly back in 2018.

"Although the building was not broken, it really affected our facility here so relocation is warranted. Secondly, this place is a swampy place and we don't have enough parking area in the front, this is not fit for an educational institution," she said.

McPhetres did not disclose when NMTI would receive the grant but she said once NMTI receives funding, they

would issue RFPs.

The \$2 million from the CDBG program is a separate grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration's grant of \$10 million that NMTI expects to receive around February or March.

The EDA grant would go to the construction of a new NMTI campus that will also be located in Koblerville. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

# Nine SIS wing in the new year with early admission

Saipan International School's Class of 2020 had an overwhelming number of students apply for early admission to colleges of their choice in the U.S. mainland and nine out of 20 have already received acceptance letters even before the new year started.

According to SIS college counselor Whit Altizer, nine out of 20 students have already received acceptance letters. Among the seniors accepted, one has already committed to Emory University with a QuestBridge scholarship that covers her tuition and expenses.

Altizer set a goal back in January 2019 to have all mainland applications done by the winter holiday and an overwhelming majority of the seniors met that goal.

"This class is very motivated and excelled in all of the tasks I asked of them. They had also put themselves in a position early on to have strong applications with plenty of activities, community service, and strong grades from the ninth grade," Altizer said.

According to SIS headmaster Ron Snyder, SIS is very proud of this year's senior class for their hard work and dedication to higher education.

"We are certain wherever they go they will make as big an impact as they did at SIS. We take pride in our Geckos going off to topnotch universities all over the world and displaying the strength and initiative that is the backbone of our

school and island to their new ARMATECH **WIFI System** Services and

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community," he said. As part of SIS' curriculum, upcoming juniors begin the application process with a pre-

paratory class that sharpens their essay writing skills and gives them time to research careers and schools that may be of interest to them.

By August of their senior year, they have a personal

statement ready and clearer knowledge of what universities are a good fit for them.

The students who received early acceptance letters were QuestBridge scholar Malika Miyawaki, Anika Snyder, Allan Lee, Andrea No, John Paul Sablan, Ken Song, Sally Lai, Steven Goodwin, and You Sun Lee. (Kimberly A. Bautista)



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cle and would like to remain Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-

Suspect in San Jose burglary is arrested

7272. **(PR)** 

# DPS probes alleged attempted kidnapping in Dandan

about 6pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting an attempted kidnapping near a school bus stop in Dandan.

The caller later told responding police officers that they were waiting at their bus stop when an unknown, gray-colored sedan (no make or model reported), pulled up near to the bus stop, and parked along the shoulder of the road. The suspect in the vehicle rolled the passenger-side window down slightly and asked a female juvenile to follow him "to Garapan and Dandan."

The suspect is described as

On Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, at having dark hair, and spoke good English. The vehicle is described as a gray-colored sedan, having dark tint, with scratches on its side.

> The Department of Public Safety would like to remind the public and parents to be aware of this incident, and to speak with your children about the dangers of strangers asking unusual questions, especially when there are no familiar adults around.

This case remains ongoing. If you or someone you know are victims of a similar incident, call 911 to report it. If you have any information on the individual(s)/or vehi-



1, 2019, at about 10:44am, the Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at a business establishment in Ramon

San Jose, Saipan. At the scene, police met with the caller who is an employee at the establishment. The caller stated that the incident happened the day prior and they forgot to report it. Police learned that the business establishment had surveillance footage of an unknown male individual making his way through the establishment and searching through the establishment's drawers.

anonymous call the CNMI

The caller stated that they realized something was odd when they noticed that only pennies were left in the drawer where they kept their money and coins. The caller stated that two cans of energy drink and two bottles of water were also missing. When the caller

showed officers the surveillance footage, an officer recognized the individual and notified dispatch. Dispatch sent out a description of the suspect and known areas he frequents.

At about 11:41am. an officer conducting patrol spotted the suspect near the Marianas Visitors Authority building on Beach Road. The officer informed dispatch and met with the suspect, who then confessed to the burglary incident. The suspect was arrested and brought to the Department of Corrections to be booked and detained. The suspect was later released.

On Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed and issued an arrest warrant for Jerry Ramon, with a cash bail set at \$10,000.

Later that day, at about 6:01pm, police arrested Jerry Ramon in San Jose and trans-

### TO HELP END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

# 'If you see something, say something'

By IVA MAURIN

REPORTER

Fifteen years since the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking Act which signaled the CNMI's oneness with the world in joining the global fight against human trafficking, the islands still have yet to see the modern slavery problem fully eradicated.

At the proclamation of January as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month last Friday, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios encouraged the entire CNMI to band together and raise awareness about this heinous crime against humanity.

"I urge residents to reach out to victims, and show them there is support and help available for them," Palacios said. "These are our islands. We will not allow fear in our community. We will not stand idly by as the basic human rights of others are destroyed."

It was acknowledged at the proclamation signing that the CNMI may have already gained some momentum toward ending human trafficking but there is still more to be done. It was pointed out at the proclamation signing that as much as 24.9 million people are trafficked globally, including in the United States, where adults and children get exploited through forced labor or commercial sex.

"The evil of human traffick-

ing must be defeated. We remain relentless in our resolve to bring perpetrators to justice, to protect survivors and help them heal, and to prevent further victimization and destruction of innocent lives," the proclamation reads.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan acknowledged that human trafficking also exists in the CNMI. "There is no question that in our community, and communities elsewhere, human trafficking is prevalent. You can find it in bars and spas, massage parlors, in construction industries. Almost everywhere, they could be found, but they are all hidden."

Manibusan said that raising awareness about the issue in the community is important as it is the one way that the issue can come to light. With the community's participation and recognition that human trafficking exists, the community can be better served and be made more safe, he said, where people cannot be used for purposes of gratification and for profit.

"If you see something, say something," Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law executive director Pamela Brown said. "We have people here in the community ready to help."

To report human trafficking, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272 or Karidat Social Services at 234-6981.

### 'Human trafficking still exists in the CNMI'

Karidat Social Services kicked off Human Trafficking Awareness Month with executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro and Pacific Ombudsman for Humanitarian Law executive director Pam Brown taking part in a morning talk show with radio station KKMP last Jan. 9.

According to Brown, the term human trafficking doesn't only mean sex trafficking. It is also labor trafficking, which is a form of modern day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

She also stressed that human trafficking is also pres- certain signs that someone ent in the CNMI and has might be a victim of human been increasing since 2016.

According to Brown, the perpetrators in sex trafficking are smarter now and know how to hide it, that sex trafficking is still around and it's very common.

That's why it is so important to recognize the signs of human trafficking, said Ogumoro. "We want people to recognize the signs of human trafficking so that if you do see something, you know who you can call and who you can discuss what you what you think you saw."

"You have to be aware of it every day, not just once in a while. You have to always be aware of what's going on in your surroundings. And if you if you see something, say something," said Ogumoro. "If you get a weird vibe about it, trust your gut, and even if you don't want to bother because it's somebody else, they're all human beings and they were just trying to come here to make a better life and, unfortunately, most of them were tricked."

According to Brown, trafficking would be if you see an older person with younger people paying for everything, controlling them, and not letting the younger people speak for themselves, which is a red flag.

Both Brown and Ogumoro encouraged the community to volunteer at Karidat's shelter to help with translation for victims who may only speak their first language such as Chamorro, Tagalog, Chuukese, Carolinian, etc. (Justine Nauta)

Commonwealth Atilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220

Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

### **AGENDA**

- **Preliminary Matters** 
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes
    - October 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
    - October 28, 2019 Continued Regular **Board Meeting**
  - November 7, 2019 Special Board Meeting
  - November 12, 2019 Continued Special **Board Meeting**
  - 5. November 21, 2019 Special Board Meeting
- E. Correspondence
- Management Reports
  - A. Executive Director's Report
  - B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
    - Statement of Net Position as of December 31, 2019
  - Statement of Cash Flow as of December 31, 2019
  - 2020 Budget vs. Current Financials C. Human Resources Manager's Report
  - 1. Status of Employees Performance Base
  - 2. Status of Employee Classification
- Committee Reports
- A. Personnel Committee Report
- **Old Business** 
  - A. Corporate Master Plan
  - B. Basic Cost of Service Study C. CHCC Billing/Payment Update
  - D. CUC Payment Kiosks at Gas Stations
  - E. Status of Employee Appeals F. Tinian Facility Takeover (Telesource)
  - G. Employee Survey
  - H. Net Metering Credit to Water Electric Charge
  - I. Organizational Chart
- ٧. **New Business** A. JVA Nos. 20-019 & 20-012
- Public Comments\* Executive Session\*\*
  - (Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters Contracts, and Board Communications)
- Announcements
- IX. Adjournment
- \* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone
- is welcome to submit written comments.
- \*\* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
ADDENDUM
RFP20-CHCC/RESPIRATORY CARE-001A

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 11, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

<u> "Four (4) puritan bennett 980 ventilators & Fisher</u>

<u>& Paykel 850 humidifier base & starter kit"</u>

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE

CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO  ${\it RFP's}$  TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) HOMELESS PREVENTION COALITION

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**DECEMBER 31, 2019** 

We would like to inform the General Public that CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition will be conducting a public forum on January 15, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at the Kagman Community Center. The forum will provide information regarding the CNMI Homeless Prevention Coalition's purpose in the community.

The Coalition will also be conducting the CNMI Point-In Time Count on January 25, 2020 for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Any interested volunteers may send their information to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp or glbliss@dys.gov.mp on or before January 15, 2020, at 9 a.m. The volunteer orientation will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on January 17, 2020, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on January 18, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan.

For all inquiries you may contact Ms. Gennie Bliss at (670)237-1000 or Mr. Jacob Muna at 234-6866/9447.

kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Rachel Fusco, the current Public School System Facilities Development Management director, bade farewell to PSS last Friday after nine years of service, citing "personal reasons."

In a short interview with Fusco, she said her last day with PSS was last Jan. 10.

"I'm leaving for personal reasons. I've been here for nine years so I'll be leaving to pursue other career advancements. I'm going to take a break and explore other options," she said.

In her years with PSS, Fusco has aided, and even spearheaded recovery efforts, which she considers the highlight of her time with PSS.

"The biggest challenges we've had were definitely the past two typhoons starting with Soudelor and then Yutu. That was just major recovery. We've done a lot. The Marianas High School cafeteria, all the Soudelor recovery—it's been very rewarding for me to work at PSS and I really felt like my time here has served the community and students, so I'm very grateful for that," she said.

With her certificate in Leadership in Energy and Efficiency and Environmental Design, Fusco has helped incorporate sustainability and green design to PSS projects. Her biggest takeaway that she said she will carry with her in her future endeavors would be her experience in dealing with various groups of people.

"With PSS, I've really had



Public School System personnel pose for a photo during the farewell luncheon for PSS Facilities Development Management director Rachel Fusco, fifth from the left, last Wednesday at the Board of Education building on Capital Hill.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

the opportunity to do lots of different thing, lots of experience with different funding sources, working hand in hand with the Legislature, parent and teachers organizations, and also with the students. I've gotten a sample of all of that," she said.

Fusco said she will be leaving PSS on a high note, having closed as many loose ends as possible in her recovery work with PSS campuses.

"I just wish everybody the best. I've tried my best to close out any loose ends and I feel everything is in order for the Federal Emergency Management Agency," she said.

PSS has yet to name her re-

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# Civics contest focuses on voting rights milestones

FRANCISCO—The anniversaries of two constitutional amendments that greatly expanded suffrage in this country are the focus of this year's Ninth Circuit Civics Contest: the 150th anniversary of the 15th amendment, which granted voting rights to persons of color, and the centennial of the 19th amendment, which accorded those same rights to women.

The contest offers high school students in the western United States and Pacific islands an opportunity to win cash prizes while learning about the role of the judicial

branch in preserving our constitutional rights. Students are asked to write an essay or produce a short video in response to the topic. The 2020 contest theme, "The Right to Vote: Anniversaries," Milestone poses the following challenge to participants: In the wake of the 15th and 19th Amendments, barriers remained to prevent United States citizens from voting. Do formal or informal barriers remain today? What additional changes would you make, if any, to Americans' voting rights?

The contest is open to

young people in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam, and the CNMI. Students in grades 9-12 in public, private, parochial and charter schools, and

home-schooled students of equivalent grade status are invited to participate.

The contest is organized by the Public Information and Community Outreach Committee of the Judicial Council

of the Ninth Circuit, and sponsored by Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the federal district and bankruptcy courts in the 15 judicial districts that make up the circuit.

A total of \$7,000 in cash prizes will be awarded in the circuit-wide contest. The top three finishers in both the essay and video competitions will receive \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third place. The first-place winners, along with a parent or guardian, will also be invited to the 2020 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Portland, Oregon, in July.

Many students also have a chance to win cash prizes in local competitions sponsored by the individual judicial districts to select finalists for the circuit-wide contest.

Contest rules and other information are available now on the contest website: https:// www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/. Entries will be accepted beginning Feb. 15, 2020. The deadline for entries is 11:59pm Pacific Time on March 25, 2020. Finalists will be announced in May and the winners in June.

For more information about the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, contact the Ninth Circuit Office of the Circuit Executive, civicscontest@ce9. uscourts.gov/or (415) 355-8873. **(PR)** 

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Success International Corporation** dba New Hope Rock Quarry

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Success International Corporation dba New Hope Rock Quarry is proposing to operate an Industrial Use (Mining). This use is classified as "Industrial" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 011 C 04 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

**Date:** January 23, 2020

Time : 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose

Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, January 22, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

### Hot Pepper Festival to take place at fiesta grounds

nual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2020, has been confirmed for the fiesta grounds in San Jose village.

Event organizer Marianas Visitors Authority and cosponsor Tinian Mayor's Office have agreed to have the festival at the same location as last year's due to the convenience and amenities of the site.

"There are a couple of great locations where we have held the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in the past," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "This year we're bringing the event back to

The venue for the 16th An- last year's venue at the fiesta grounds in San Jose, which has booths, picnic pavilions, and, of course, the breathtaking Kammer Beach. It's also right next door to the House of Taga, which is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and a 'must-see' for visitors to the Marianas."

> The festival, affectionately knowns as "Pika Fest" among locals (pika means spicy), pays homage to Tinian's small but famous donne sali hot pepper. Activities will include dances, bands, and other live entertainment; cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales; and more. Festivalgoers will have the chance to purchase a variety of local dishes, join the umang (hermit crab) races, participate in sports activities, and join the hot pepper eating competition itself. In addition, the 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 15 will begin at 6am.

Details on a ferry schedule between Saipan and Tinian will be announced once confirmed. Air service between Saipan and Tinian is provided by Star Marianas and takes 15 minutes. Airport shuttle will be offered by the MVA to and from the festival site.

Accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View, Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn. Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and indoor showers available).

"Tinian is a very comfortable place for camping, and we invite visitors to make a weekend of it at one of our local beaches," said MVA Tinian field operations supervisor Vida Borja "Pika Fest is a great opportunity for schools and other groups to take a short but memorable camping trip, and we look forward to welcoming all our visitors to the beautiful island of Tinian." (PR)

### **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

Crispin M. Sablan dba Marianas **Counseling Services** 

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Crispin M. Sablan dba Marianas Counseling Services is proposing to operate an Office Use. This use is classified as "Office Use" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on TR. 22507-R3 in Chalan Kanoa village. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date : January 23, 2020

Time : 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose

**Center Building Susupe, Saipan** 

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, January 22, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, January 23, 2019
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

### **Preliminary Matters**

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda 3.
- Adoption of 12/18/2020 meeting minutes
- Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

### **Public Hearings:**

- 1. Conditional Use Application #2019-4467: Crispin M. Sablan dba Marianas Counseling Services is proposing to occupy one existing building to operate an Office Use. This use is classified as "Office Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22507-R3 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Rural.
- 2. Conditional Use Application #2019-4562: Success International Corporation dba New Hope Rock Quarry is proposing to occupy a lot to operate its Mining use. This use is classified as "Mining" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 011 C 04 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Industrial.
- 3. Conditional Use Application #2019-5031: Integrated Development Corporation dba Ahbhu Auto Care Center is proposing to occupy & renovate an existing building to operate an auto shop. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 21863-13 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
- C. Communication
- **New Business**
- E.
  - Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
  - Update on Job Vacancy Announcement for Zoning Administrator position
  - Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 regulation **Executive (Closed) Session**

### Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- Announcements Next Meeting C.

### Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Acting Zoning Administrator, Yubert M. Alepuyo, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Zoning Board Chairman

## **NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Integrated Development Corporation** dba Ahbhu Auto Care Center

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Integrated Development Corporation dba Ahbhu Auto Care Center is proposing to operate an Auto Shop. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on TR. 21863-13 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

**Date:** January 23, 2020

Time : 5:00 pm

Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose **Center Building Susupe, Saipan** 

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, January 22, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Mariano Taitano, Chairman

# Series of US Navy trainings in Guam

**ASAN, Guam**—The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm on Jan. 13-16 in Dandan-Inarajan. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct open-ocean exercises from 2pm to 11:55pm on Jan. 13 at the following coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E and 13°42'N/144°36'E. All vessels are requested to remain clear three nautical miles from the above coordinates as this training will be accompanied by the use of live ammunition.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 9am to 5pm on Jan. 13 in Agat Bay. The public is advised to be aware of small boats operating in the area.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training from 2pm to 4pm on Jan. 13 at

the following coordinates: 13°26'37"N/144°39'32"E. 13°26'38"N/144°39'32"E, 13°26'38"N/144°39'34"E, and 13°26'37"N/144°39'34"E.

Vessels are advised to remain clear 500 yards from the above coordinates.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 3pm to 7pm on Jan. 14 in Outer Apra Harbor. Vessels are requested to remain alert for military personnel parachuting and swimming in Outer Apra Harbor as part of the exercise.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 9am to 11am on Jan. 15 in Outer Apra Harbor. This training will be accompanied by the use of blanks. Vessels are advised to remain aware of the training and should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training from 5pm to 11:55pm on Jan. 15 in Outer Apra Harbor. Vessels are requested to remain alert for military personnel swimming in Outer Apra Harbor as part of the exercise.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training from 10am to 3pm on Jan. 16 in Radio Barrigada. The public should be advised that this training will be accompanied by the use of blanks and practice hand grenades.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators also monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)



#### **TOURISM SUMMIT SUPPORTER**

Bridge Capital LLC general manager Bartley A. Jackson, left, donates \$1,000 on Jan. 9, 2020, at their office in Garapan to the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit set for Jan. 23, 2020. From left, Jackson, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, MTEC board secretary Martin Duenas, MTEC board member Glenn Policare, and MTEC vice chair Wendi Herring.

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### **2020 Red Cross Walkathon Set for April 25**

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 2020 Walkathon will take place on April 25, a Saturday. The event will include a 10K walk and lots of fun and games for the entire family. Activities will include a community resource fair, face painting, bounce houses and lots more. For information on the walkathon and how you can support, volunteer or participate, call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or e-mail at nmichapter@ redcross.org. (PR)

### Registration for NMC's **Adult Basic Education** Program begins today

The Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education or ABE program, which focuses on meeting the educational needs of adult learners, has announced the following dates for Session 3:

### ■ Jan. 13-17, 2020

☐ CASAS Placement Testing: 1pm (by appointment only), Bldg. M-2

☐ Registration: 10am-5pm, Bldg. M

#### ■ Jan. 27, 2020: First day of Tumon Bay Music instruction

☐ Feb. 24-27, 2020: Student evaluation of instructor & class

☐ March 9, 2020: Last day of instruction (Post-testing for those with 40-plus hours of instruction)

New students and those who have been out of the ABE program for more than a year must make an appointment at the Adult Basic Education Office located in Building M to take the CASAS Assessment Test. Note that this

schedule is subject to change. For additional information, contact ABE at 237-6713 or email abe.info@marianas. edu. *(PR)* 

#### **New phone numbers** for Guam National Guard

In order to better align our network with that of our sister services on island, throughout the nation and around the world, the Guam National Guard will be changing its current phone system to fall under the Defense Information Systems Agency. The implementation of the new system and phone numbers will take effect today, Jan.13, 2020.

During the initial onset of this implementation, which will take place from Jan. 13 to 17, the current phone numbers will automatically forward to the new numbers. However, once full implementation is complete, the old numbers will drop off.

For more information, contact the GUNG Joint Information Center at (671) 344-1077 to obtain the new office numbers. (PR)

### Festival starts Feb. 27

TUMON BAY, Guam—The Tumon Bay Music Festival 2020, brought to you by the Guam Territorial Band Society, is celebrating 16th year of promoting musical arts in the Marianas. It is the region's largest music festival featuring musicians from across Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Japan.

Come and enjoy the music at numerous venues across Guam beginning Feb. 27 and ending with the finale concert on March 7 featuring the Concordia Mass Choir, festival honor bands, and the International Wind Orchestra. Go to tbmfguam.org for more information. (PR)

### **Saturday writing** workshops

The Marianas Writers Movement will have a series of Saturday workshops. Each workshop will be two hours, beginning at 1:30pm in the VTC Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshops, "Beyond the First Draft," will focus on the editing process. These workshops are open to all over age 13, and are free.

Each workshop is different in content. Here is the tentative schedule for topics:

- Jan. 18 Workshop 1: Intro to editing
- Jan. 25 Workshop 2: How to be a beta reader
- Feb. 1 Workshop 3: Writing a critique/editorial report
- Feb. 8 Workshop 4: Line editing thoughts ■ Feb. 15 Workshop 5:
- Pitching your novel ■ Feb. 22 Workshop 6: Resources/Hands-on/Feedback/ Q&A (PR)

### **Kagman schools' PTSA** meeting tomorrow

The Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting tomorrow, Jan. 14, 2020, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KAGE), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)





### REQUEST OF PROPOSALS **ADDENDUM NO. 2** RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-011

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"MEASURED LAND & MARINE SURVEYS OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT'S (CRM) DESIGNATED AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN" COASTAL HAZARDS, SHORELINES, WETLANDS & STREAMS, PORTS & INDUSTRIAL, & LAGOON, CORAL REEF, & SEAGRASS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

### January 10, 2020

This Addendum is issued to schedule the pre-proposal meeting and reschedule the questionnaire deadline along with the proposal submission deadline and opening for on-island and off-island proposers.

- To include in the Request for Proposals: "A pre-proposal conference will be held at the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management, Gualo Rai Center Building, 3rd Floor DCRM conference room on January 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Questions regarding this RFP can be forwarded to Ms. Sam Sablan by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp, no later than the close of business, November 29, 2019, ChST is changed to read: no later than the close of business, January 20, 2020, ChST. Responses to questions shall be shared to all prospective proposers. The questions from prospective applicants and the responses from BECQ/DCRM will also be posted to the websites that listed the request for proposals (RFP), in an addendum.
- Sealed proposals for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and five (5) copies to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, January 13, 2020 is changed to read no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, January 30, 2020 and must be marked "RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-011".
- Proposals submitted by firms outside of the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official postal service of a foreign country by January 13, 2020 is changed to read January 30, 2020 and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K. Saipan MP, 96950 and the proposal documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than the close of business, January 23, 2020 is changed to read no later than the close of business, February 10, 2020.
- Proposers outside of the Commonwealth **MUST** notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, if they intend to submit a proposal in order to receive an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent including name, contact details, and a statement that they intend to submit a proposal may be sent in any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or emailed to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp but MUST be received no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, January 13, 2020 is changed to read no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, January 30, 2020. All prospective applicants who send their Notice of Intent by this date will receive a copy of all questions from other prospective applicants and the response.

Please Note: All other requirements stated in the Request for Proposal shall remain as stated.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

End of Addendum No. 2

/S/ <u>Francisco c. aguon</u> acting director, P&S

10 MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Opinion**



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Pacific Islands News Association

### **EDITORIAL**

# Pressuring Iran, Trump adds diplomacy to deterrence

fter the United States killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, and Iran responded by launching missiles at U.S. military bases in Iraq, what would President Donald Trump do? We were as unsettled as anyone at the prospect of Trump exacerbating dangers by letting his ego and emotions rule.

That didn't happen—at least not immediately. In a televised address Wednesday the president sensibly signaled that the current military confrontation could be over.

Trump sounded tough on Iran over its nuclear ambitions, but he replaced, or at least supplemented, threats of further U.S. military action with something we rarely hear from him: the steadying language of diplomacy. Trump said Iran appeared to be standing down, that he didn't want to order the U.S. back into battle and that he wanted Europe's help, and NATO's participation, in an effort to draw Iran back into negotiations over its nuke and ballistic missile programs. Trump said he wants a deal "that allows Iran to thrive and prosper and take advantage of its enormous untapped potential."

Those would be prudent moves by any U.S. president who has the world's most powerful armed forces at his disposal but is focused on giving an adversary the opportunity to deescalate. "We do not want to use it," Trump said of America's military might. "American strength, both military and economic, is the best deterrent."

In fact, the language of Trump's TV address would have sounded familiar, boilerplate even, if uttered by a conventional president. That's not Trump. He routinely insults his political foes and once threatened North Korea with "fire and fury," taunting Kim Jong Un by calling him "Little Rocket Man." Trump's political recklessness got him impeached. We'll hand out no extra credit points to Trump for behaving responsibly at a moment of international crisis—one he created by ordering a drone attack on Soleimani.

Instead, the focus turns to the viability of Trump's strategy for reining in Iran. He took out Soleimani, commander of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, because he was the architect of Iran's asymmetrical mayhem. In response, Iran launched missiles at two Iraqi bases that house American troops, causing no casualties. That was followed by an Iranian announcement that its retaliation had "concluded." U.S. forces had acted quickly to keep their personnel out of harm's way. They also were lucky every missile apparently landed with a thud.

This provides Trump with a window of opportunity to rally U.S. allies to his side in order to restart the difficult process of negotiating a broader international nuclear deal with Iran. That deal also should address Iran's support for terrorist groups and its ballistic missile program.

Trump would put himself in a much stronger position if he could coax the United Kingdom, Germany and France to join him. They recently signaled an interest, given recent Iranian attacks in the Persian Gulf. They also were put off by the killing of Soleimani. Maybe European leaders heard enough from Trump on Wednesday to further engage. In his speech,

See PRESSURING on Next Page



# We're on the brink of another calamitous war

ow did this current crisis all begin? A little history would help.
For the United States and Iran, the seminal date was 1953. That was when the desire to dominate Iran's oil resources and its vital strategic position led the U.S. and Britain to overthrow an elected, democratic government. All the sordid details of this neo-colonial act of arrogance are laid out in public U.S. government documents, but they are absent from the false American narrative that it has been the champion of democracy in most of the Middle East.

Iranians have not forgotten any of this. They came to resent bitterly the dictatorship—fully backed by the American government—that was foisted on them in 1953 and lasted for the next 26 years. They already had harsh memories of previous interventions in their country by Czarist Russia, Britain and the USSR. They saw the U.S. as motivated by the same geo-strategic considerations, lust for oil, and contempt for the wishes of the Iranian people that drove these empires.

The Iranian Islamic revolutionary regime, which since the end of the Cold War has been one of the prime foes of the United States in the region, is heir to these memories and this bitterness. Failure to understand and deal with these real drivers of Iran's behavior is the core of the problem in Washington, where a mind-set that ignores cultural and historical knowledge dominates the views of most of our politicians.

Attacks against the United States by Iran and its allies—the 444-day seizure of the American Embassy starting in 1979, the truck bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, multiple kidnappings and assassinations, and many more—are rooted in this history. They are rooted as well in two other crucial American policy decisions that amounted to indirect acts of war: massive support for Saddam Hussein's devastating war with Iran from 1980 to 1988, and for Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps would not exist without Iraq's war on Iran, which was supported by the U.S., the USSR and European powers and led to the deaths of at least half a million people. Hezbollah would not exist but for Israel's U.S.-supported invasion and 18-year occupation of much of Lebanon.

Iran and its allies have indeed killed many Americans, and have inflicted much suffering on others. But this was part of a four-decade low-intensity war that the United States and its allies were full parties to. This war has flared in many places: in Lebanon, where in 1983-84 U.S. forces fought alongside Israel; in Iraq, where at least a million people died and millions were displaced both as a result of the U.S.-led invasion in 2003 and its

### By RASHID KHALIDI

Los Angeles Times

Rashid Khalidi is author of The Hundred Years War on Palestine and the Edward Said professor of Modern Arab Studies at Columbia University.



disastrous aftermath; and in the Syrian civil war, where Russia, Iran and the U.S. and its allies have all been involved in the death and displacement of millions.

It should be a warning sign that only Israel has strongly supported the assassination of Gen. Qassem Suleimani, the second most important figure in the Iranian government. The Trump administration has now followed the Obama administration in adopting as its template Israel's "targeted assassination" policy. Whatever excuses President Trump and Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo manufacture, this was an act of war against a sovereign state and a violation of both international law and the U.S. Constitution. This course of lawlessness and arrogance assumes that permanent war on anyone who opposes U.S.-Israeli hegemony in the Middle East should be our way of life.

History can only tell us about mistakes made in the past, about the illusions that motivated policymakers, and the ideologies and ideals that drove peoples and governments. It cannot tell us what will happen. We do not need history to tell us that by withdrawing from the nuclear agreement with Iran and strangling its economy with sanctions, and now with this latest act of folly, the Trump administration has brought the United States to the brink of a third unnecessary war in the extended Middle East.

We already know the lessons of the Afghan and Iraqi wars. The current drive to war is motivated by the same blindness to history and to possible consequences that brought us Iraq and Afghanistan. For the politicians, their advisors and funders, there are no penalties for their recklessness. Indeed, there may be electoral and financial rewards, while innocent peoples far away, not to speak of American servicemen and -women, will pay the price.

Trump and his enablers must be stopped from pushing the world into the 21st century's third calamitous war in that region. Anyone with any sense can foretell that this one has the potential to be far worse than, and just as unwinnable as, the two that preceded it.

### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions

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# Trump impeachment trial is Chief Justice Roberts' nightmare

man's worst nightmare. That man isn't President Donald Trump, however. He'll take it in stride. It's Chief Justice John Roberts, who will have to preside.

Roberts has devoted his whole career to trying to keep the Supreme Court from being seen as a partisan body. That started with the famous baseball analogy he offered at his Senate confirmation, according to which the justices are like umpires who call balls and strikes. The comparison is pretty dubious: balls and strikes aren't infused with controversial moral questions like when life begins and who can marry whom. But Roberts was trying to illustrate his ideal of a justice who stays out of the partisan fray of team spirit.

Since then, Roberts has made a number of important rulings perhaps intended to keep the court from appearing too partisan. For example, he broke with his conservative colleagues to save the individual mandate in the landmark Affordable Care Act case (even though, in the same judgment, he gutted the act's Medicare expansion) and also sided with the liberals in a 5-4 decision that kept a citizenship question off the 2020 census questionnaire.

Trump's impeachment trial is a nightmare for Roberts because it will be very challenging to avoid an appearance of partisanship while he presides. There's no ducking the job, though. The Constitution specifically requires the chief justice to preside over presidential impeachment, presumably because the framers realized that it would be awkward for the vice president to be in that chair as the senators decided whether to oust the president and thus elevate the vice president.

When Chief Justice William Rehnquist presided over President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, he managed to stay out of the politics almost entirely. As Rehnquist later said, quoting his beloved Gilbert and Sullivan, he "did nothing in particular and he did it very well."

Roberts was a law clerk for Rehnquist and would doubtless love to emulate this aspect of his experience. The trouble is that times have changed in ways that will make things much tougher for Roberts than they were for his old boss.

When Clinton was impeached, the Senate unanimously adopted rules of procedure that were, in the main, fair and balanced. That meant Rehnquist was rarely asked to decide any substantive matters.

That sort of Senate bipartisanship would be terrific this time around. But it seems highly unlikely that, in the current atmosphere of extreme partisanship, the senators will manage to reach consensus, much less unanimity, on rules of procedure or evidence for the trial. That means Roberts could be asked regularly to rule on tough procedural issues, such as which witnesses may be called by whom or whether certain evidence (for example, hearsay) can be admitted.

Deciding these questions would put Roberts in a difficult spot. Democrats will criticize him as partisan if he issues rulings favorable to Trump. Republicans will excoriate him as a traitor if he rules against the president.

The best strategy available to Roberts may be to rely on a quirk of Senate impeachment rules. Under Senate precedent, a

### **PRESSURING**

From Page 10

the president made a pitch for international cooperation, including seeking NATO involvement. That could help lower tensions in Iraq, where Shiite politicians want to evict America's military.

The long-running standoff with Iran is by no means over. Trump kicked up some new dirt by declaring Iran would never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon on his watch; he doesn't want to tolerate yet another North Korea. Trump also promised to impose additional economic sanctions on Iran. If the mullahs in Tehran feel backed into a corner, they could lash out. If Trump feels emboldened, or sees a potential political advantage at home, he could ratchet up tensions again.

This president is not temperamentally suited for the delicate art of diplomacy. On Wednesday, though, he delivered.

presidential impeachment trial in the Senate is one majority of the Senate can overrule any procedural or evidentiary decision made by the chief justice.

> Rather than ruling and subjecting himself to the indignity of being overruled, Roberts could say to the senators that he would like to them to vote on any close question, skipping the step of issuing a decision himself. There is some precedent for this in earlier impeachment trials, albeit mostly when a nonjudge was in the chair. This approach would shift any partisanship to the senators and away from Roberts.

> The catch is that the senators would almost certainly have to vote to agree to vote before Roberts ruled. If the parties vote in lockstep (which is probable but not certain), then Republicans, who enjoy a slight Senate majority, would themselves have to want to rule before Roberts did. In other words, the Republicans would have to agree to keep Roberts away from potentially controversial decisions

> Here the game theory gets interesting. Assume Republicans make Roberts rule, instead of voting to decide the issue themselves. If he decides for Trump, they win—because now the ruling seems more judicial and objective and less partisan.

> If he rules against Trump, the Republicans can overrule the decision. Doing so would make them look partisan, to be sure.

### **By NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg News

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. His books include The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President.



They might prefer not to do it. But in the end, the public already knows both parties are partisan in this particular Senate battle. So the Republicans might be willing to overrule Roberts.

At the same time, if Roberts suggests to the Republicans that they should vote before he rules on something, that might signal to the Republicans that he might be prepared to rule against Trump on that issue.

In light of this complexity, if Roberts is forced to make controversial rulings, he will have little choice but to try to be objective: to call balls and strikes, and hope for the best. It's not an attractive role. But Roberts is up to it, if anyone is.

# Rediscovering America: A quiz on the US census

he decennial U.S. census—or Population and Housing Census as it is also known—endeavors to count every individual living in the United States and the five U.S. territories, and will take place again this year.

The quiz below, from the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University in Ohio, provides an opportunity for you to test your knowledge of the history and purpose of the U.S. Census.

1. In what Article and Section of the U.S. Constitution is the mandate to count each state's population every 10 years?

A. Article I, Section 6

B. Article III, Section 3

C. Article I, Section 2

D. Article II, Section 1

2. In what year was the first census taken?

A. 1790

B. 1811

B. 1820

C. 1846

3. What was the approximate total number of persons counted in the first census?

A. 1.9 million

B. 2.4 million

C. 3.1 million

D. 3.9 million

4. What was the approximate total number of persons counted in the 2010 census?

A. 263.7 million

B. 297.4 million

C. 308.7 million

D. 327.2 million

5. In what year did the U.S. Census Bureau become an official government agency?

A. 1893

B. 1902

C. 1921 D. 1943

6. The Census Bureau is part of which Cabinet-level department?

A. Department of the Treasury

B. Department of the Interior

C. Department of Commerce

D. None of the above; the bureau is independent

7. Census counters begin work in this state in January of each census year, three months before counting in other states begins?

B. California

C. Hawaii

D. Texas

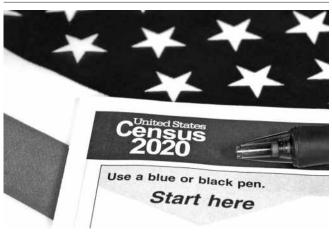
8. New York City, Philadelphia and Boston were the three largest cities according to the 1790 Census. Which of the follow-

### By DAVID TUCKER

Tribune News Service

David Tucker is senior fellow at the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University and general editor of Ashbrook's Core Documents Collection curricula resources. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.





Researchers have warned that steps taken by the Census Bureau to protect individual responses may muddy other areas of data and research. DREAMSTIME/TNS

ing cities was the fourth largest?

A. Baltimore

B. Charleston, S.C.

C. Providence, R.I.

D. Washington

9. In addition to the decennial population census required by the Constitution, the U.S. government also conducts other censuses and surveys. Which of the following does the government count periodically?

A. Governments

B. Businesses

C. Farms and ranches D. All of the above

10. For almost a century beginning with the first census, which of the following agencies was in charge of counting the country's inhabitants?

A. Federal Marshals

B. Social Security Administration

C. National Archives and Record Administration

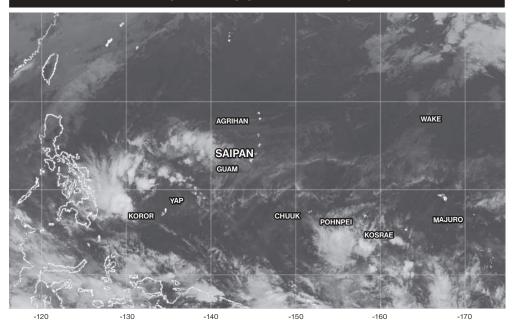
D. Naturalization Service Answers: 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C, 5-B, 6-C, 7-A, 8-B, 9-D, 10-A

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**12** MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# The Weather

	5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TOI	DAY	TUESDAY WEDNESDAY		ESDAY	THURSDAY		FRIDAY			
<u></u>	<u>'</u>	<u> </u>	<b>'</b> 5'-	<u> </u>			·à:		<b>)</b> (-	
light showers	artly cloudy with isolated ight showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		with isolated nowers.	Partly cloudy	ing the day. with isolated wers.	Partly cloudy shov		Partly cloudy shov	with isolated vers.	
86°	<b>74º</b>	87º	75°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	75°	
	YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



### PICTURE TIME: 7:55 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

A decaying shear line remains to the north of Saipan this morning. This feature will maintain mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas through today. A band of weak convergence is generating scattered showers over Guam. These showers will gradually decrease through the morning, becoming isolated near noon. By tonight, drier conditions will move back into the region, resulting in partly cloudy skies and isolated light showers until the middle of the week. Moderate trade winds will begin to increase Monday, becoming moderate to fresh by Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

<b>MICRONESI</b>	A	<b>▲</b> ♥°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	82° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Mosty Cloudy	85° / 83°
Majuro	Mosty Cloudy	85° / 83°

Majuro	Mosty Cloudy	85° / 83°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	<b>≜</b> ▼°F
Auckland	Cloudy	71° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	31° / 19°
Hong Kong	Showers	66° / 56°
Honolulu	Showers	74° / 71°
London	Rain	49° / 42°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	63° / 47°
Manila	Showers	87° / 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	87° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 75°
New York	Cloudy	44° / 40°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	51° / 38°
Paris	Cloudy	48° / 42°
Busan	Clear	44° / 32°
Rome	Sunny	55° / 36°
Salem	Partly Sunny	39° / 34°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	53° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	33° / 18°
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	52° / 40°
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	55° / 44°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted

through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■\*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET					
3:21 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.74			
10:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82			
3:57 PM	LOW TIDE	1.04			
8:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.80			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:46 AM	8:36 PM
Tuesday	-	9:36 AM	9:36 PM
Wednesday	-	10:23 AM	10:35 PM
Thursday	-	11:08 AM	11:32 PM
Friday	-	11:51 AM	-

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	DEI	PARTU	RES		A	RRIVAL	.S
SAIPAN-	GUAM (	GUM)		GUAM (G	ium)-sa	IPAN	
UA117 UA156		9:55am 7:00pm	Daily 2, 4, 6	UA174 UA112		8:11am 5:26pm	Daily 2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-	NARITA	(NRT)		NARITA (	(NRT)-S	AIPAN	
SKY816 SKY816		7:30pm 8:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 6	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
CAIDAN	DUCAN A	(DUC)		BUSAN (	PUS)-SA	IPAN	
<b>SAIPAN-</b> 7C3451		6:30am	Daily	7C3452 7C3452		2:30am+1 2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 3
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TW308 OZ626 OZ626 OZ626 7C3403 OZ6243 OZ624 7C3401 TW310	2:10am 2:50am 3:35am 4:35am 3:20pm 3:50pm 4:30pm	6:05am 6:05am 6:40am 7:20am 8:35am 7:10pm 7:40pm 8:25pm 10:15pm	Daily 1 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 4 Daily 2, 4, 6 1, 3, 5, 7 Daily Daily	OZ623 OZ623 OZ6233 OZ623 7C3402 TW309 OZ625 TW307 OZ625 OZ625 OZ625 7C3404	7:00am 7:30am 8:10am 10:10am 11:10am 7:30pm 7:45pm 8:20pm 9:05pm	12:10pm 12:20pm 12:50pm 1:40pm 3:30pm 4:25pm 1:00am+1 1:05am+1 1:40am+1 2:25am+1 3:40am+1	5 7 2, 4, 6 1, 3 Daily Daily 7 Daily 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 3 Daily
SAIPAN-	SHANGH	IAI (PVG	i)	SHANGH	AI (PVG	)-SAIPAN	I
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-	HANGZH	iou (HG	H)	HANGZH	ou (HGI	H)-SAIPA	N
JD396 JD396		12:05pm 7:55pm	1 4	JD395 JD395		3:30pm 5:00am+1	4 7
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3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U864	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-	BEIJING	(PEK)		BEIJING	(PEK)-S	AIPAN	
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-	MANILA	(MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-S	AIPAN	
OZ626/701 OZ626/701 UA117/183 UA117/193 UA156/183 UA156/193	2:10am 2:50am 9:15am 9:15am 6:20pm 6:20pm	10:35am 9:50pm 11:50pm	1 via ICN 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN Daily via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-ROR Daily via GUM 2 via GUM-ROR	UA189/174 OZ702/625 OZ702/625 OZ702/625 UA192/174 UA184/174 OZ704/623 OZ704/623 OZ704/623	12:05pm 12:05pm 12:05pm 10:40pm 10:55pm 11:45pm 11:45pm 11:45pm	8:11am+1 1:00am+1 1:40am+1 2:25am+1 8:11am+1 8:11am+1 12:10pm+1 12:50pm+1 1:40om+1	3, 6 via GUM 7 via ICN 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via IC 3 via ICN 2, 5 via GUM-ROF 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GU 5 via ICN 7 via ICN 2, 4, 6 via ICN 1, 3 via ICN

### **SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

02626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5 via ICN
07624/9661	3:50pm	12:15am+1	7 via ICN

HONG KO	NG (HK	G)-SAIP	AN
OZ746/623	12:35am	12:10pm	5 via ICN
OZ746/623	12:35am	12:20pm	7 via ICN
OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
0042	o.oupiii	1.408111+1	1

9:30pm 4:25am+1 2, 4, 6

11:45pm 1:40pm+1 1, 3 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

UO42

OZ704/623

FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	TO ROTA  DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1203 1204 1205 1206 1207 1208	9:00AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	9:15AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
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3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN '	TO SAIPAN		
ROTA TO	GUAM .			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2102 2103 2104	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM	Daily Daily Daily
<b>GUAM T</b>	O ROTA			2105 2106	10:30AM 11:30AM	10:45AM 11:45AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2100 2107 2108 2109	12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN	TO TINIAN			2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Joeten 70th Anniversary Raffle



70th anniversary celebration last Saturday with a raffle

There were also booths manned by different sponsors,



MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Business**

# Muna named GBM Executive of the Year



AM Insurance president and general manager Annmarie T. Muna poses with Guam acting governor Joshua F. Tenorio after being named 2019 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year during the gala held last Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

TUMON, Guam—Annmarie T. Muna, president and general manager of AM Insurance, was named the 2019 Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year at the annual Guam Business Magazine Executive of the Year award gala held last Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Born and raised in Guam, Muna, 59, is a graduate with top honors from the University of Guam who holds 1983 bachelor's in business administration with a double major in management and public administration.

Muna's significant journey in the insurance industry began as an insurance clerk and she worked her way up to become an underwriter. She gained valuable insight into marketing and underwriting as a production manager at Universe Insurance Underwriters Inc., where she was a manager for 13 years. Her professional training includes marketing and underwriting for casualty, property, auto, bond, aviation, and marine insurance.

Muna formed AM Insur-

ance in January 1994 in the garage of her parent's home with only one employee and two clients. Today, AM Insurance has more than 20 employees and occupies three offices in Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc.'s J&G Commercial Center in Hagatna and services many commercial, government and personal accounts.

With more than 40 years of insurance knowledge and experience, Muna is also a licensed insurance broker who is qualified to access Excess and Surplus Lines insurance

# Jack in the Box Guam sends local family to meet 49ers defensive tackle

Kaimana Terlaje, winner of the Jack in the Box DeForest Buckner Sweepstakes, and his family had the opportunity to meet NFL player, DeForest Buckner, defensive tackle for the San Francisco 49ers, at Levi's Stadium in San Francisco after the 49ers played the Falcons last Dec. 15. Terlaje was one of many local NFL fans that entered the sweepstakes for a chance to meet Buckner. Buckner, born and raised in Hawaii. was drafted by the 49ers in 2016 and was selected for the Pro Bowl in 2019.

Jack in the Box Inc. (NAS-DAQ: JACK), based in San Diego, is a restaurant compa-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kaimana Terlaje, left, and his family meet DeForest Buckner, defensive tackle for the San Francisco 49ers. From left Terlaje, Buckner holding Mateo Terlaje, and Maria Terlaje.

ny that operates and franchises Jack in the Box restaurants, one of the nation's largest hamburger chains, with more than 2,200 restaurants in 21

states and Guam. For more information on Jack in the Box, including franchising opportunities, visit www.jackinthebox.com. (PR)

markets in Europe and America and is one of the most experienced brokers in the servicing of government accounts on Guam. She is also a licensed real estate broker.

In addition to her successful insurance practice, Muna has ventured into other successful business enterprises. She is a shareholder and director of two locally, womenowned companies, Y Ma'gas Inc. and Sentada Inc., which does business as Balutan Queen. Y Magas Inc. started in September 2004 and provides administrative services, event planning and bookkeeping services to small businesses on the island. Balutan Queen is a café in the Bank of Guam building which started in 2007.

She was one of the first 30 charter members of Soroptimist International of the Marianas on Guam. Muna is also a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Guam Contractor's Association, Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the National Association of Women in Construction, among others.

Muna is featured in portraiture on the cover of the Guam Business Magazine January-February issue, which was released at the gala.

The annual gala is a fundraising event for the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Muna joined six other executives in vying for the award: Richard Chan, president, Archway Inc., which does business as Infusion Coffee & Tea, I Love Guam, and The Beverage Source; Dr. Michael W. Cruz, president and CEO, Guam Regional Medical City; Dean Huntsman, general manager, Dusit Thani Guam Resort; James I. Oehlerking, CEO, PTI Pacifica, which does business as IT&E; John R. Onedera, country managing partner, Ernst and Young LLP; and

Ryan F. Torres, store manager of Macy's Guam.

Among past Executive of the Year recipients are Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises Inc. (1983); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); the late Alfred C. Ysrael of Tanota Partners (2006): Lee P. Webber of MDA Guam (2007); Jerry Cho Yee Tan of Tan Holdings Inc. (2009); Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010); George Chiu of Tan Holdings (2013); Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Tropical Instant Press Inc., Saipan Shipping Co., Saipan Stevedore and Advance Carrier (2014); Jeffrey B. Jones of Triple J Enterprises Inc. (2015); and Jose C. "Joe" Ayuyu of Mc-Donald's of Guam and Saipan, RJ Corp. and RJ Guam LLC (2016); **(PR)** 

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### Ghosn's Japan lawyer: **Questioning averaged** 7 hours a day

**TOKYO** (AP)—A lawyer for former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn, who fled to Lebanon while awaiting trial in Japan, said his client was questioned an average of seven hours a day without a lawyer present. Takashi Takano said on his blog post Saturday the questioning continued through weekends, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Takano has said he told Ghosn he couldn't expect a fair trial in Japan, but his chances of winning were good because the evidence against him was so weak. Japan's judicial system has come under fire over Ghosn's case. Critics have for years said the prolonged detentions tend to coerce false confessions. Suspects can be detained even without any charges. Japanese prosecutors and Justice Minister Masako Mori have repeatedly defended the nation's system as upholding human rights, noting Japan boasts a low crime rate. Mori said the system follows appropriate procedures under Japanese law, stressing that every culture is different. Takano said he recently looked at prosecutors' data and Ghosn's notes to tally the hours of questioning for 70 of the days Ghosn was detained. On three days, Ghosn had been questioned for some 11 hours, according to Takano's tally. Ghosn was detained under two separate arrests for 130 days. He has been charged with underre-

porting his future compensa-

tion and of breach of trust in diverting Nissan Motor Co. money for alleged personal gain. In a news conference in Beirut lasting more than two hours, Ghosn reasserted his innocence, and accused Nissan and Japanese government officials of plotting his removal. Ghosn, who led Nissan for two decades, has said the compensation was never decided, and the payments were for legitimate business. Much of his news conference was devoted to criticizing Japanese justice as rigged and harsh. He said he had been grilled without a lawyer present while held in solitary confinement. He advised all foreigners to leave.

### Report: US, China reach agreement to

resume economic talks WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and China have agreed to resume semiannual talks on economic and trade issues, according to a published report. These discussions had been conducted in previous administrations but had been halted by the Trump administration. The Wall Street Journal reported Saturday that the resumption of the talks, which were started in the George W. Bush administration and continued in the Obama administration, was set to be announced on Wednesday when the Trump administration signs a Phase One trade agreement with China in Washington. The newspaper said that the new talks would be separate from negotiations over a

Phase Two trade deal, which will cover a number of contentious issues involving Chinese policies that the Trump administration contends are unfair trade practices but were not resolved in the Phase One negotiations. Henry Paulson had started the US-China talks when he was Treasury secretary under George W. Bush with top officials from both countries meeting twice a year. The discussions were continued during all eight years of the Obama administration although the talks were reduced to just once a year. When President Donald Trump took office in 2017, his administration halted the discussions, feeling they had failed to achieve significant results in tackling unfair Chinese trade practices and reducing America's huge trade deficits with China, the largest with any country. The Trump administration instead launched more targeted trade negotiations, which ended up triggering a tit-for-tat trade war between the world's two biggest economies. Both countries imposed billions of dollars of tariffs on the other country's products. Those tariffs raised uncertainties among businesses, slowed global economic growth and roiled financial markets. Both countries announced a Phase One agreement resolving some of the issues between in December as part of a cease-fire in the trade war. Administration officials said that the details of the Phase One deal would be released after the agreement is signed Wednesday.

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# **Nation**

# Storms sweep southern US, Midwest as death toll rises to 11

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Severe storms sweeping across southern portions of the U.S. and up into the Midwest were blamed Saturday in the deaths of at least 11 people, including two first responders, as high winds, tornadoes and unrelenting rain battered large swaths of the country.

Storm-related fatalities were reported in Texas due to icy weather, in Alabama from a deadly tornado and in Louisiana, where winds were so strong that a trailer home was lifted off its foundation and carried several hundred feet. A man drowned in Oklahoma and the storms even touched the Midwest with at least one death on an icy highway in Iowa. Hundreds of thousands of people were left without power from Texas to Ohio, parts of highways were closed in Oklahoma and Arkansas due to flooding and hundreds of flights were canceled at Chicago's international airports.

Arkansas Gov. Hutchinson declared a state of emergency to assist crews working to restore power around the state.

Two first responders were killed and another was critically injured in Lubbock, Texas,



Saturday morning after they were hit by a vehicle while working the scene of a traffic accident in icy conditions, officials said.

Police Officer Nicholas Reyna, 27, who had been with the department for one year, died at the scene. Firefighter Lt. David Hill, 39, was taken to a local hospital where he later died. Firefighter Matthew Dawson, 30, was hospitalized in critical condition.

Lubbock Police Chief Floyd Mitchell called it an "extremely tragic day" for the city.

"If people would respect road conditions, things like this wouldn't have to happen," said Lubbock Fire Chief Shaun Fogerson.

Another person had died in Texas Friday night when a car flipped into a creek in Dal-

WASHINGTON

remove a chief executive.

warned that senators now have

a choice as they consider the

charges of abuse and obstruc-

"In an impeachment trial, ev-

ery Senator takes an oath to do

'impartial justice according to

the Constitution and laws," Pe-

losi wrote. "Every Senator now

faces a choice: to be loyal to the

The trial could begin next

week. The Constitution gives

the House the sole power to

impeach a president, but the

Senate the ability to render a

President or the Constitution."

tion against the president.

(AP)—

las as severe thunderstorms passed through. Lightning from Friday's stormy weather was suspected of causing fires that burned two houses but caused no injuries in the North Texas cities of Burleson and Mansfield.

A man drowned near Kiowa, Oklahoma, after he was swept away in floodwaters, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Saturday. Randall Hyatt, 58, of Wardville, was overwhelmed by rushing water while getting out of his stalled truck.

The Iowa State Patrol said roads were caked with ice early Saturday when a semitrailer on Interstate 80 overturned, killing a passenger in the truck east of Iowa City.

In Alabama, three people were confirmed killed near Carrollton in Pickens County, the National Weather Service in Birmingham tweeted. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency said the deaths were caused by an "embedded tornado within a long line of intense thunderstorms."

Earlier Saturday, in northwestern Louisiana, firefighters found the bodies of Jerry W. Franks, 79, and Mary Sue Scarlett Faulk looks at a Bible belonging to one of her brothers that she pulled out of from a destroyed building on her family's land on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, in southern Lonoke County, Ark.

Franks, 65, near their demolished trailer in Benton, the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office said via Facebook. The winds were so strong the home of the couple, who were the in-laws of a parish deputy, was moved 200 feet (61 meters) from its foundation.

Willie Davis owns a barn near where the Franks lived. He told KTBS-TV that this wasn't the first time he'd seen storms like this.

"Four or five times that I've known that (storms) have been through they hit, tearing down trees and the barn and stuff like that," Willie Davis said. "But that's about all it normally does every time, ... this is the first time we've had any casualties.'

The National Weather Service in Shreveport said a tornado with winds of around 135 mph (217 kph) had touched down in Bossier Parish. Drone footage showed smashed buildings, a large vehicle flipped on its side, toppled trees and debris scattered over a large area.

Also in Louisiana, Raymond Holden, 75, was killed in his bed when a tree fell on his home in Oil City, crushing him, according to the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office.

### Texas governor to reject new refugees, first under Trump

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Texas will no longer accept the resettlement of new refugees, becoming the first state known to do so under a recent Trump administration order, Gov. Greg Abbott said Friday.

Abbott's announcement could have major implications for refugees coming to the United States. Texas has large refugee populations in several of its cities and has long been a leader in settling refugees, taking in more than any other state during the 2018 governmental fiscal year, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Since the 2002 fiscal year, Texas has resettled an estimated 88,300 refugees, second only to California, according to the Pew Research Center.

In a letter released Friday, Abbott wrote that Texas "has been left by Congress to deal with disproportionate migration issues resulting from a broken federal immigration system." He added that Texas has done "more than its share."

Abbott argued that the state and its non-profit organizations should instead focus on "those who are already here, including refugees, migrants,

and the homeless-indeed, all Texans."

It wasn't clear how Abbott's letter might affect any currently pending refugee cases.

Refugee groups sharply criticized the Republican governor. Ali Al Sudani, chief programs officer of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, predicted that some refugees with longstanding plans to come to Texas would have flights rescheduled or delayed. Al Sudani settled in Houston from Iraq in 2009 and now works to resettle other refugees.

"You can imagine the message that this decision will send to them and to their families," Al Sudani said. "It's very disappointing and very sad news, and honestly, this is not the Texas that I know."

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said he had met refugees in Dallas who had previously served as interpreters or aides for U.S. soldiers.

"You have people who are fleeing violence, people who are assisting us in the war on terror, who are having the door slammed in their faces," said Jenkins, a Democrat who is the county's chief administrative official.

verdict when it convenes as the Court of Impeachment.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House will take steps next Pelosi was particularly upbeat Friday as she strode week to transmit the articles of impeachment against Presithrough the Capitol, despite dent Donald Trump, ending a the mounting pressure on her three-week standoff but conto quit delaying the trial. Her fronting the Senate with only decision to end the showdown the third trial in U.S. history to with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell does not In a letter to her Demofully bring closure to the quescratic colleagues, Pelosi said tion of whether the Senate will Friday she was proud of their consider new witnesses, as "courage and patriotism" and some want, shifting pressure

on senators to decide. Trump swiftly signaled his intention of blocking any testimony from John Bolton, the brash former national security adviser who could be a wildcard witness in the trial. Bolton has said he would appear before the Senate if he received a subpoena.

At the same time, a key centrist GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, whose vote is among those most watched, announced Friday she was in discussions with other Republicans on a

strategy that would allow the Senate to hear new testimony.

Pelosi to send impeachment to Senate for historic trial

While the rules of Senate trial remain unsettled, the outcome is not. Trump is widely expected to be acquitted of the charges that he abused power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, then obstructed Congress in its investigation. No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

"Ridiculous," Trump told Fox News' Laura Ingraham about the speaker's gambit. "Nancy Pelosi will go down as the least successful speaker of the House in the history of our nation," he said.

Asked if he would invoke executive privilege to block Bolton's testimony, Trump said, "Well I think you have to for the sake of the office."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has been working closely with the White House on strategy, said Friday afternoon that the Senate is "anxious to get started."

Republicans have the leverage, with a slim 53-47 Senate majority, if McConnell can keep GOP senators on board with his strategy. So far, they are supportive of modeling the trial after the one used in the last presidential impeachment, of Bill Clinton, 20 years ago. It set out a path for starting the trial and voting on witnesses later.

Despite McConnell's wishes for a speedy trial, some Republicans in his caucus have indicated that they are open to witnesses. It takes just 51 senators to set the rules, and Democrats have been trying to win over wavering GOP senators to vote with them on hearing new testimony.

"I am hopeful that we can reach an agreement on how to proceed with the trial that will allow the opportunity for witnesses for both the House managers and the President's counsel if they choose to do so," Collins said. "It is important that both sides be treated fairly."

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# Asia

# Taiwan leader meets top US official after her election win

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)— Fresh from a landslide reelection victory, Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen met Sunday with the de facto U.S. ambassador to Taipei, as China warned that countries should stick with recognizing communist-ruled Beijing as the rightful government of "One China," including Taiwan.

William Brent Christensen, a U.S. diplomat who is director of the American Institute in Taiwan, congratulated Tsai on her victory and she thanked him for his support.

China considers self-governed Taiwan a part of its territory and opposes any official contact with the U.S. as an interference in its domestic affairs. The U.S. does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan but is legally bound to ensure that Taiwan defend itself against threats.

Tsai has sought closer relations with the U.S. while pushing back against pressure from China, and the Trump administration has reciprocated.

**BEIJING (AP)—China said** Sunday that the world should abide by the idea that there is only one China, ruled by the Communist Party, after Taiwan reelected its democratic leader.

"We hope and believe that the international community will continue adhering to the One China principle, understand and support the just



cause of Chinese people to oppose the secessionist activities for 'Taiwan independence' and realize national reunification," said a statement from Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

**Taiwanese** President Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party won in a landslide Saturday against pro-China Nationalist Party candidate Han Kuo-yu. Her victory speech warned China not to threaten force against the self-governed island.

Taiwan's voters "have shown that when our sovereignty and democracy are threatened, the Taiwan people will shout out determination even more loudly," Tsai said.

Taiwan has developed its own identity since separating from China during civil war in 1949, but has never declared formal independence. Beijing still claims sovereignty over the island of 23 million people and threatens to use force to seize control if necessary.

"No matter how the situation changes on Taiwan island, the basic facts—that there is only one China in the world and that Taiwan is part of China-will not change," Geng said.

In this photo released by the Taiwan Presidential Office, William Brent Christensen, director of the American Institute in Taiwan at right meets with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, at left in the Presidential Office in Taipei, Taiwan.

Since separating from China during civil war in 1949, Taiwan has developed its own identity but never declared formal independence. Beijing still claims sovereignty over the island of 23 million people and threatens to use force to seize control if necessary.

In her victory speech after her rival, Han Kuo-yu of the Nationalist Party, conceded defeat, Tsai urged China to resume talks with Taiwan without preconditions while warning against threatening use of force.

"Today I want to once again remind the Beijing authorities that peace, parity, democracy

and dialogue are the keys to stability," Tsai said. "I want the Beijing authorities to know that democratic Taiwan and our democratically elected government will never concede to threats."

Tsai's victory is a setback for Chinese President Xi Jinping at a time when Beijing is grappling with an economic slowdown and long-running, sometimes violent anti-government demonstrations in Hong Kong.

After election results were announced late Saturday, Ma Xiaoguang, a spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said China is willing to work with the Taiwanese people to advance the "peaceful reunification of the country."

But he cautioned that China would firmly protect its territorial integrity and opposes any separatist moves and Taiwan independence, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

### **ASIAN BRIEFS**

#### N Korea: Trump's birthday greet not enough to resume talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean official on Saturday said that the U.S. and South Korea are dreaming if they think that President Donald Trump's sending a birthday message would get leader Kim Jong Un back to the negotiating table. North Korean Foreign Ministry adviser Kim Kye Gwan repeated the North's deep frustrations over stalled nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration and stressed that the country will never fully deal away its nuclear capabilities for ending U.S.-led sanctions despite its economic difficulties. He was responding to comments by South Korean presidential national security director Chung Eui-yong who, after returning from a visit to the United States on Friday, said that Seoul had conveyed Trump's birthday greetings to Kim. His birthday is believed to be Jan. 8. Chung told reporters that Trump during their meeting at the White House this week had asked Seoul to deliver the message to Pyongyang, which it did through "proper means" on Thursday. But Kim Kye Gwan said that the North had already received a similar letter by Trump directly from the Americans, and ridiculed Seoul saying it was cling-

ing to its role as a mediator

between Washington and Pyongyang. "They seem not to know that there is a special liaison channel between the top leaders of the DPRK and the U.S.," Kim Kye Gwan said about the South, referring to North Korea by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He said it was "presumptuous" for South Korea to meddle in the personal relationship between the North Korean and U.S. leaders. "Although Chairman Kim Jong Un has good personal feelings about President Trump, they are, in the true sense of the word, 'personal.' The Chairman of the State Affairs Commission would not discuss the state affairs on the basis of such personal feelings, as he represents our state and its interests," he said.

### Firefighter dies as **Australia works on** long-term battle plan

BURRAGATE, Australia (AP)—A firefighter was killed by a falling tree while b attling the Australian wildfire crisis overnight and the prime minister on Sunday said his government was adapting and building resilience to the fire danger posed by climate change. Bill Slade—one of the few professionals among mainly volunteer brigades battling blazes across southeast Australia—died on Saturday near Omeo in eastern Victoria state, Forest Fire Management Victoria Executive Di-

rector Chris Hardman said. The 60-year-old married father of two was in November commended for 40 years service with the forestry agency. "Although we do have enormous experience in identifying hazardous trees, sometimes these tree failures can't be predicted," Hardman said. "Working on the fire ground in a forest environment is a dynamic, high-risk environment and it carries with it significant risk." The tragedy brings the death toll to at least 27 people in a crisis that has destroyed more than 2,000 homes and scorched an area larger than the U.S. state of Indiana since September. Four of the casualties were firefighters. Authorities are using relatively benign conditions forecast in southeast Australia for a week or more to consolidate containment lines around scores of fires that are likely to burn for weeks without heavy rainfall. The reprieve from severe fire conditions promises to be the longest of the current fire season. The crisis has brought accusations that Prime Minister Scott conservative Morrison's government needs to take more action to counter climate change, which experts say has worsened the blazes. Thousands of protesters rallied late Friday in Sydney and Melbourne, calling for Morrison to be fired and for Australia to take tougher action on global warming.

# Thousands run against 'dictatorship' in Thai capital

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thousands of anti-government protesters took part in the "Run Against Dictatorship" in the Thai capital Sunday in the biggest political demonstration in years.

Organizers said 10,000 people registered to join the run, which included slogans demanding Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the leader behind a 2014 coup, stand down.

In a sign of rising political tensions, government supporters held their own event in a downtown park.

Last year's general election was meant to restore full democracy, five years after the military staged the coup. But the poll rules were widely seen as favoring the pro-military party.

The government's sluggish economic performance has added to a growing sense of discontent.

"Everything's worse," one participant, an office worker who gave his name only as Sakdinan, said through a

face mask. "The economy is worse and people are facing difficulties including freedom of expression."

The trigger for Sunday's rally were moves by courts to dissolve a popular, new progressive political party.

The Future Forward Party came from nowhere to become the third largest group in parliament with 80 seats. Their anti-military agenda made many younger Thais flock to their banner in a challenge to the deeply conservative ruling elite.

The party's rise in popularity has been met with legal cases, through the Election Commission and the Constitutional Court, for a number of alleged breaches of the law. Many now assume the party will be found guilty and dissolved, possibly even this month.

The party's charismatic leader, Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, has emerged as the galvanizing figure behind the growing protests.

On Sunday, the billionaire businessman-turned-politician said he was delighted by the numbers who came to show their support.

"The people show great awareness of the political situation," he said, in between posing for selfies with excited supporters.

"I believe that in order for Thailand to be able to be a democratic country again, the first step is that General Prayuth has to get out and the people here today I think we share that feeling. This is the demonstration of the anger of the people."

Similar runs were organized in other provinces Sunday, leaving many to wonder whether Thailand is heading for another prolonged bout of street politics. Rival camps have occupied parts of Bangkok, and sometimes fought running battles, several times over the last 14 years. The unrest has triggered two coups and led to more than a hundred deaths.

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# World

# Under pressure, Iran admits it shot down jetliner by mistake

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—In the face of mounting evidence, Iran on Saturday acknowledged that it shot down the Ukrainian jetliner by accident, killing all 176 people aboard. The admission by Iran's Revolutionary Guard undermined the credibility of information provided by senior officials, who for three days had adamantly dismissed allegations of a missile strike as Western propaganda.

It also raised a host of new questions, such as why Iran did not shut down its international airport or airspace on Wednesday when it was bracing for the U.S. to retaliate for a ballistic missile attack on two military bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq. No one was hurt in that attack, carried out in retaliation for the killing of Iranian Gen. Oassem Soleimani in an American airstrike in Baghdad.

Iran's acknowledgment alters the narrative around its confrontation with the U.S. in a way that could anger the Iranian public. Iran had promised harsh revenge after Soleimani's death, but instead of killing American soldiers, its forces downed a civilian plane in which most passengers were Iranian.

On Saturday night, hundreds gathered at universities in Tehran to protest the government's late acknowledgement of the plane being shot down. They demanded officials involved in the missile attack be removed from their positions and tried. Police broke up the demonstrations.

President Donald Trump tweeted messages of support to Iranians who back protests of the government, saying he and his administration are behind them. In the tweets. Trump called on the Iranian government to allow human rights groups to monitor the protests and expressed support for the "brave, long-suffering people" of Iran.

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guard's aerospace division, said his unit accepts full responsibility for the shootdown. In an address broadcast by state TV, he said when he learned about the downing of the plane, "I wished I was dead."

He said he raised the possibility to his superiors that his forces shot down the plane as early as Wednesday morning because "the simultaneous occurrence of the launch and crash was suspicious."

Hajizadeh said Guard forces ringing the capital had beefed up their air defenses and were at the "highest level of readiness," fearing that the U.S. would retaliate. He said he suggested Tehran should close its airspace but no action was taken.

He said the airline's pilot and crew had done nothing wrong, but an officer made the "bad decision" to open fire on the plane after mistaking it for a cruise missile.

"We were prepared for an all-out conflict," he said.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, expressed his "deep sympathy"

to the families of the victims and called on the armed forces to "pursue probable shortcomings and guilt in the painful incident."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy thanked the U.S, Britain, Canada and others for information about the crash and their support. He said that "undoubtedly helped" push Iran to acknowledge its responsibility for the crash. Zelenskiy said the crash investigation should continue and the "perpetrators" should be brought to justice.

The Ukrainian airline criticized Iran's decision to leave its airspace open despite the hostilities.

"It's absolutely irresponsible," Ukraine International Airlines vice president Ihor Sosnovskiy told reporters. "There must be protection around ordinary people. If they are shooting somewhere from somewhere, they are obliged to close the airport."

The plane, en route to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, was carrying 167 passengers and nine crew members from several countries, including 82 Iranians, 57 Canadians—including many Iranians with dual citizenship—and 11 Ukrainians, according to officials.

### In Mexican capital, red shoes to protest killings of women MEXICO CITY (AP) angry anti-rape protests in

Stiletto heels. Clogs. Trainers. Tiny, child-size Crocs.

Activists placed hundreds of painted-red women's shoes on Mexico City's sun-drenched main square Saturday to call attention to gender-based violence in a country where, on average, 10 women and girls are murdered each day and less than 10 percent of the cases are ever solved.

As residents and tourists milled about the plaza, or Zocalo—the historical, political, cultural and religious heart of the country—demonstrators marched to the massive front door of the colonial-era National Palace and placed five pairs on the paving stones as a uniformed guard looked on.

"Not one more killed!" they cried to the beat of a drum.

"The shoes represent absence, visualizing absence," said 60-year-old artist Elina Chauvet, who first realized the piece of performanceprotest art in 2009 after her sister was killed by her husband in a domestic violence case in the northern border city of Juarez. "The red is for the blood that has been spilled, but it is also a work that speaks of love."

The performance was the latest in a string of public demonstrations in recent months over violence against women, including which demonstrators tossed glitter and defaced monuments; thousands of women in blindfolds chanting the feminist anthem "A Rapist in Your Path," a viral phenomenon across the Americas and around the world; and more low-key marches and even knit-ins.

The common thread running throughout: Authorities' inability to solve the problem of gender-based violence in one of the world's most dangerous countries to be female.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has been office a little over 13 months, and allied officials have pledged to make femicide and other genderrelated crimes a priority. In November, Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum declared a gender violence alert for the capital, meaning that 20 of Mexico's federal entities have now done so. Sheinbaum said the measure would raise awareness of the problem and deliver better results.

But for those at Saturday's protest, little to nothing has been seen as far as results. There were 3,662 femicides, or gender-related killings of women, in 2018, before López Obrador took office, and the rate continued apace in 2019 though there are not yet final figures for the year.



This satellite photo provided by Maxar Technologies shows the site where a Ukrainian jetliner crashed Tuesday near the Laleh Park recreation area, left, in Khalaj Abad, southwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020.

### Russia scores victory for ally Syria in UN vote cutting aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— Russia scored a victory for its close ally Syria on Friday, using its veto threat to force the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution significantly reducing the delivery of cross-border humanitarian aid and cutting off critical medical assistance to over one million Syrians in the northeast.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Karen Pierce accused Russia of playing politics with humanitarian aid for the first time in the nearly nine-year Syrian conflict, and "playing dice with the lives of Syrian people in the northeast."

U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft accused Russia of "triumphantly" supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad's goveernment "to starve its opposition." And she warned: "Syrians will suffer needlessly (and) Syrians will die as a result of this resolution."

The resolution adopted

by the U.N.'s most powerful body reduces the number of crossing points for aid deliveries from four to just two, from Turkey to the mainly rebel-held northwest as Russia demanded. It also cuts in half the year-long mandate that has been in place since cross-border deliveries began in 2014 to six months, as Moscow insisted.

The vote capped months of contentious negotiations and came on the day the current mandate for cross-border aid deliveries to Syria expires. It also reflected the deep divisions that have prevented the Security Council, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security, from taking any significant action to end the Syrian conflict.

The resolution that was finally voted on by the 15-member council, received 11 "ves" votes and 4 abstentions from Russia, China, the United States and United Kingdom.

Indonesia's deputy U.N. ambassador Muhsin Syihab, who voted in favor of the resolution, said afterward he believed all council members were "equally unhappy."

Germany, Belgium and Kuwait, backed by the U.S., Britain. France and other council nations, initially wanted to add a fifth crossing point and extend the mandate for a year. But to meet Russia's demands and avoid a total cutoff of cross-border aid they watereddown their resolution to two points for six months.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said last month that cross-border aid was meant to be a temporary response to the Syrian conflict and the situation on the ground has changed. He said the Jordan crossing point hasn't been used "for a lengthy period of time" and the volume through the Iraqi crossing "is insignifi-

cant ... and could be done from Syria" so only the Turkish crossing points are needed points he reiterated on Friday.

By contrast, the U.N. humanitarian office said it has been supporting 4 million Syrians through cross-border aid deliveries—2.7 million in the northwest and 1.3 million in the northeast.

According to the U.N., 40 percent of all medical, surgical and health supplies to the northeast, along with water and sanitation supplies, are delivered through the Al Yarubiyah crossing point in Iraq.

U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock told the Security Council in November that the U.N. provided 1.1 million people with food through cross-border deliveries in October, double the number in January.

"There is no alternative to the cross-border operation," he stressed. "There is no Plan B."

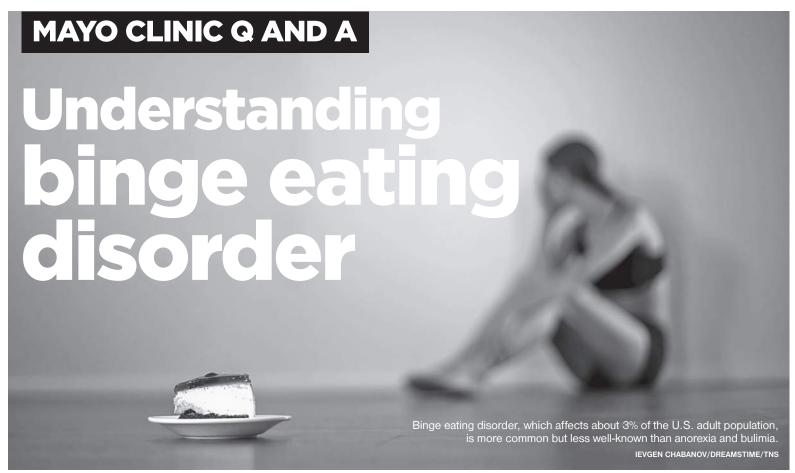
18 MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Health & Wellness

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DEAR MAYO CLINIC: What is binge eating disorder? I've heard of anorexia and bulimia. But I'd never heard binge eating described as a disorder until my nephew was diagnosed with it. How is it treated?

ANSWER: Binge eating disorder is a serious health problem that involves eating unusually large amounts of food in a distinct span of time, such as over a two-hour period. During a binge, people who have this disorder feel unable to control or stop their eating. Treatment for binge eating disorder focuses on changing a person's behaviors and attitudes about eating and weight. In some cases, medication also can help.

As you mention, many people are familiar with anorexia and bulimia. Anorexia is an eating disorder characterized by an abnormally low body weight, intense fear of gaining weight and a distorted perception of weight. Although it's probably the most well-known type of eating disorder, anorexia is the least common. Bulimia is an eating disorder in which people eat

large amounts of food and then try to prevent weight gain in unhealthy ways, such as by inducing vomiting, misusing laxatives, fasting or exercising excessively.

Binge eating disorder, which affects about 3% of the U.S. adult population, is more common but less well-known than the other two. It involves eating large amounts of food during a time period that lasts two hours or less. People who have binge eating disorder often eat rapidly during these episodes, and they eat even if they are not hungry. The bingeing frequently happens alone or in secret. After bingeing, people with binge eating disorder may feel depressed, upset, ashamed or guilty about their eating. If left untreated, eating disorders can lead to serious and even life-threatening health problems. Research has shown that among all psychiatric disorders, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate. It is crucial to identify eating disorders, so they can be appropriately treated.

Diagnosing binge eating disorder is a significant challenge. Many people who have it are skilled athid-

ing their binge eating from others. Stereotypes about the kind of person affected by eating disorders often hinder diagnosis, too. Many people think young women who appear to be average weight or underweight are the only ones who deal with eating disorders. That's simply not true. About 10 million men in the U.S. suffer from eating disorders, as do many people who are overweight or obese.

Most do not seek help. That's dangerous because the long-term health risks of eating disorders can be severe. One in 5 people who have anorexia die as a result of the disease. Although the mortality rate is lower for bulimia and binge eating disorder, the complications from those conditions also can be severe. They include anxiety, depression, heart problems and gastrointestinal disorders. These eating disorders also can result in a poor quality of life and social isolation, as well as raise the risk for substance abuse disorders and suicide.

The lack of accurate diagnosis of binge eating disorder is particularly disheartening because once it is identified, binge eating disorder often can be treated successfully. In some situations, certain medications can curb binge eating and reduce symptoms. But the cornerstone of effective treatment for binge eating disorder is cognitive behavioral therapy.

Cognitive behavioral therapy is a type of talk therapy that involves learning techniques that help people cope with issues that can trigger binge eating episodes, such as hunger; negative thoughts about eating, weight and shape; depressed mood; and interpersonal challenges. This therapy can provide patients with a better sense of control over their behavior and help them regulate their eating patterns. If you think you might have an eating disorder, or if you suspect a loved one does, seek help. Eating disorders are serious health problems that require medical care. Talk to your health care provider or a mental health professional. Effective treatment is available to help overcome an eating disorder. (Mayo Clinic News Network)

Dr. Leslie Sim, Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

# What works for you?

How Americans are changing their diets to lose weight



Cutting down on fats



Eating more natural, fresh foods



Cutting down on chocolates, sugar, etc.



Eating the same, but having smaller portions



Other





Using Weight Watchers or other slimming programs 9%

Following another diet plan



Following a low-carb, high-fat diet



Eating fewer processed foods



Source: Nielsen Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Hating vegetables could be in your genes, study shows

By COURTNEY KUEPPERS

factor in food choice. You have to

the ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION

factor in food choice. You have to

consider how things taste if you

likely to find broccali. Brussels

Do you hate broccoli? Or, perhaps can't stand the taste of Brussels sprouts?

Those preferences may not mean you're just a picky eater. Not liking some vegetables could actually be in your genes, a new study shows.

Basically, some people are what researchers call "supertasters," which means they have a specific genetic makeup that makes some foods taste more bitter, which could make it harder for some to add hearthealthy vegetables to their diet.

"Your genetics affect the way you taste, and taste is an important factor in food choice. You have to consider how things taste if you really want your patient to follow nutrition guidelines," researcher Jennifer L. Smith said.

The skinny on the science is this: Everyone has two copies of the taste gene TAS2R38. The gene has two variants, PAV and AVI. Those who inherit two copies of PAV are known as "supertasters" and are likely to find many foods "exceptionally bitter," according to the researchers.

The study, conducted at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine, looked at questionnaires from 175 people who were, on average, 52 years old.

They found supertasters were the



Not liking some vegetables could be in your genes, a new study shows. Some people are what researchers call "supertasters," which means they have a specific genetic makeup that makes some foods taste more bitter.

least likely to incorporate vegetables into their diet.

"We're talking a ruin-your-day level of bitter when they tasted the

test compound. These people are likely to find broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cabbage unpleasantly bitter; and they may also react negatively to dark chocolate, coffee and sometimes beer," Smith said.

While about 25% of people are "supertasters," another quarter of the population are known as "nontasters." These are the people who have two of the AVI variant and tend to have no sensitivity to bitter foods, researchers say.

Researchers say they intend to continue to look for new ways for people with this genetic makeup to incorporate heart-healthy vegetables in their diet, in a much more enjoyable way.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 **19** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Life & Style

# Bye, Ricky Gervais: Poehler, Fey to host 2021 Golden Globes

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Tina Fey and Amy Poehler will share host duties for the Golden Globes ceremony in 2021.

Poehler herself shared the announcement at a TV critics meeting Saturday, just a week after the ceremony aired with Ricky Gervais as host.

"There are no two funnier people anywhere," said Poehler, who introduced herself with the name of an NBC publicist who was to have opened the network's daylong presentation about its programming.

A tongue-in-cheek Poehler said the network was glad the pair found time in their busy schedules to take on the Globes. They have hosted three times before.

At last Sunday's ceremony, Gervais' snarky jokes in his fifth turn as host received mixed reviews and reactions from the celebrity audience. Poehler and Fey earned a warmer reception for their comedic approach.

Gervais repeatedly said during the ceremony that it was the last time he intended to emcee. A total of 18.3 million viewers tuned in, a small drop over the 18.6 million who watched the 2019 ceremony co-hosed by Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg.

"There's no denying that Tina and Amy's comedic chemistry is infectious," said



In this Jan. 11, 2015 file photo, Tina Fey, left, and Amy Poehler arrive for the 72nd annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which bestows the TV and movie awards. "We can't wait to see the dy-Lorenzo Soria, president of namic duo return to the Golden Globes stage."

Poehler joked that she couldn't wait to present the best film award to the video,

"Puppy Dog Bouncing in the Box Like This."

NBC is keeping her busy: The network announced Sat- Offerman, former "Parks and

urday it's renewed the craft show "Making It," hosted and produced by Poehler and Nick Recreation" castmates.

The date for next year's Golden Globes will be announced later, NBC said.

### DiCaprio's Earth Alliance gives \$3M to Australia wildfire relief

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leonardo DiCaprio's Earth Alliance environmental organization will donate \$3 million to help wildfire relief efforts in Australia.

The foundation said Thursday that it has started the Australia Wildfire Fund to help with an "international response to the catastrophic bushfires" currently raging in the country.

The wildfires have scorched

an area twice the size of

the U.S. state of Maryland,

killed at least 25 people and

destroyed 2,000 homes. The

fires, fueled by drought and

the country's hottest and driest

year on record, have been rag-

ing since September, months

earlier than is typical for Aus-

tralia's annual wildfire season.

ning actor serves as Earth Al-

liance's co-chair along with

philanthropists Laurene Pow-

ell Jobs and Brian Sheth. The

The Academy Award-win-



The fund will work with local Australian partner organizations including Aussie Ark. Bush Heritage.

and biodiversity loss.

and Wires Wildlife Rescue. DiCaprio joins a growing list of other celebrities that have rallied to donate big bucks. Australian actor Chris Hem-

sworth and Elton John who each offered \$1 million through social media earlier this week.

donation \$750,000 to a firefighting agency and emergency services agency in Victoria. Phoebe Waller-Bridge said she would auction off her Globe outfit and have the proceeds go to firefighter relief at the Golden



out consulting the monarch.

As the British media went into meltdown, the royal matriarch moved quickly to take back control, summoning her son and heir Prince Charles and grandsons Prince William and Harry to a crisis meeting to sort things out. Elizabeth, who assumed the throne in 1952, has weathered family crises before, and is determined not to let her restless grandson and granddaughter-inlaw weaken the House of Windsor or undermine the monarchy.

After initial talks between courtiers to the senior royals over the couple's unorthodox declaration of independence, Buckingham Palace said Saturday that the queen would meet Monday at her Sandringham estate in eastern England with Charles, William and Harry to agree on "next steps."



New year, new headache for queen with Harry and Meghan rift

In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018 file photo Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, and Meghan the Duchess of Sussex and Prince Harry watch a flypast of Royal Air Force aircraft pass over Buckingham Palace in London.

The palace said "a range of possibilities" was on the table, but the queen was determined to resolve the situation within "days not weeks."

Harry's next scheduled public appearance is a rugby event at Buckingham Palace on Thursday. Meghan, meanwhile, has flown to Canada, where the couple and their 8-month-old son, Archie, spent a six-week Christmas break. They announced this week they plan to "balance"

their time between the U.K. and North America, with Canada their likely base. Meghan is American but lived in Toronto for several years while filming the TV show "Suits."

The prince and the former actress married in 2018, and broadcasts of their Windsor Castle wedding were watched around the world. Harry, 35, is sixth in line to the British throne, a former British army officer and one of the royal family's most popular members.

He has spent his entire life in the public eye, but has not always been happy with scrutiny by a media he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She died in a car crash in Paris in 1997 while being pursued by photographers.

British tabloids have a voracious appetite for stories about the royal family, who are treated as an engrossing national soap opera. While much roval media coverage is positive, it is also relentless. At times, news outlets have crossed the line from invasive to illegal, as when the News of the World hacked the voicemails of Prince William and royal staff in search of scoops during the early 2000s.

Some columnists have been critical of Meghan, depicting her as a meddling American interloper into the royal family; others highlighted her biracial heritage with words like "exotic." In 2017, Harry accused the media of directing "a wave of abuse and harassment" at his then-girlfriend that included articles with negative "racial undertones."

Nicole Kidman, Pink and Keith Urban have donated as well. Metallica said they will

Globes on Sunday.

# 'Holy Grail' digital effects rewinding the clock for actors

LONDON (AP)—With Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman" expected to battle "Once Upon a Time in... Hollywood" and "1917" for the best picture Oscar in February, all eyes are on the special effects team that made the sprawling crime epic possible.

"The Irishman" unfolds over decades, with the 76-year-old Robert De Niro and his co-stars playing their characters from their 30s into retirement age, a feat that's made the film one of 2019's most acclaimed movies.

It's all possible through new digital de-aging techniques that in the past year in cinemas have shaved decades from Samuel L. Jackson's face and turned back the clock to the 1990s for Will Smith. When Monday's Academy Award nominations are announced, "Captain Marvel" and "Gemini Man" could see their names called along with "The Irishman" in the visual effects category.

Each film has arrived at its reverse aging trick through a different technique, leading some to call 2019 a monumental year for de-aging in film.

To many, "The Irishman" stands out from the field, thanks to its complete avoidance of "tracking markers"—dots painted onto actors faces which allow computers to mathematically replicate facial movements and manipulate them as the director sees fit.

The youthful transitions of "The Irishman" are the work of Pablo Helman, visual effects supervisor at Industrial Light and Magic, who's an Oscar nominee for his work on "Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones" and "War of the Worlds."

Helman says the decision to forgo tracking markers came directly from Scorsese and De Niro.

"He's not going to wear a helmet with little cameras in there," says Helman. "He's going to want to be in the moment with Joe Pesci and Al Pacino on set, with no markers on him. So, if you're going to



This combination of photos shows actor Robert De Niro, left, during the filming of "The Irishman" and the younger version of De Niro created by Pablo Helman, visual effects supervisor at Industrial Light and Magic

capture the performance, how are you going to do that?"

Enter the "three-headed monster," a unique camera rig that has a director camera in the center and two "witness" cameras on either side shooting infrared footage. That allowed Helman to eliminate shadows created by on-set lighting. The shadows could potentially interfere with the geometric facial shapes constructed by de-aging software.

"You're not interrupting the director's thread of thinking," explains Helman. "You're not changing the light on set, but the computer can see in a different spectrum."

While the team at Industrial Light and Magic was working on "The Irishman," another group of technical wizards were experimenting with deaging at director Peter Jackson's Weta Workshop in New Zealand, creating an entirely digital, 23-year-old version of Smith for the action movie "Gemini Man."

"Since I started visual FX 25 years ago it's been the Holy Grail," says Bill Westenhofer, one of the film's VFX supervisors.

"You have that many years of expertise of looking at a human face and knowing what's wrong. So, to try and get all the different things together and get it to pull off right, that's been the challenge."

To create the character of Junior—a younger clone of Smith's assassin Henry Brogan—the superstar wore the traditional gray tracksuit, complimented by a head rig with two cameras capturing his facial expressions via tracking markers.

"We decided (on) a ground up approach to build everything from scratch—from the skull all the way to the skin pores, all the way to the animation and the final kind of oil in the eyes was really the best approach we could take," says Stu Adcock, head of facial motion at Weta.

Before filming commenced on both "Gemini Man" and "The Irishman," the teams at ILM and Weta drew up test footage to show the films' directors that what they were suggesting was possible.

For "Gemini Man" it was a

clip from the 1995 movie "Bad Boys" into which they inserted two shots of their new, digital Will Smith and asked Ang Lee to spot the "fake."

For "The Irishman," De Niro also returned to the 1990s, performing the Pink Cadillac scene from "Goodfellas" before being de-aged in post-production—convincing an initially skeptical Scorsese that he could bring the longgestating project to life.

Helman and his team then spent two years looking through old movies and cataloging the targeted ages that De Niro, Pacino and Pesci would appear in "The Irishman." They created a program—similar to that used to create online "deepfake" videos where one actor's face is swapped for another's-which would check their work on the movie was heading in the right direction, with the system "spewing out" hundreds of images for crossreferencing.

Creating Junior required Smith to spend time in a photogrammetry booth where multiple cameras captured his likeness as numerous lights fired in different sequences, giving a base scan of the actor and analyzing the structure of his face from a skin pore level.

Ironically, considering Scorsese's vocal criticism of

Marvel movies as "not cinema," a similar system was used to de-age Jackson in "Captain Marvel." A young Nick Fury was created by comparing footage from old Jackson movies with the work the actor did on set—again, using tracking markers.

"I looked at that face as, you know, maybe 'The Negotiator' face," says Jackson, referring to his 1998 movie of the same name, "Fortunately for them and for me, I had enough stuff from that period in my life that they could use a bunch of different facial expressions and films to put that face together that made sense to people who knew me from that time."

Darren Hendler, director of the Digital Human Group at Digital Domain and the man responsible for turning Josh Brolin into "Avengers" supervillain Thanos, was impressed by Jackson's appearance in the movie.

"That's more of a 2D-image based approach where they're taking the actor's performance and then they're painting and tracking certain frames. They're still using some of the actor's performance directly, but they're modifying it. It was very believable. It may not have been exactly what the young Samuel Jackson looked like, but it definitely looked de-aged."

"The de-aging of Samuel L. Jackson is absolutely fantastic," agrees Weta's Guy Williams, adding, "different approaches suit different requirements. It's not a one-size-fits-all kind of situation."

# The Americas to star in NBC nature series 'The New World'

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—The Americas are getting the star treatment.

NBC said Saturday it's ordered a 10-part series, "The New World," that will explore the wilderness and wildlife of North, Central and South America. It's set to air in 2024.

"We aim to launch this ambitious show straight out of the closing ceremony of the Olympics," NBC Entertainment Chairman Paul Telegdy told a TV critics meeting Saturday.

The series promises to take viewers on a journey across the land mass that is "home to the greatest variety of life on the planet," NBC said in a release.

Veteran producer Mike Gunton ("Life," "Planet Earth II") is making the series for BBC Studios Natural History Unit, in association with Universal Television Alternative Studio.



This image released by Disney-Marvel shows Samuel L. Jackson, right, with Brie Larson on the set of "Captain Marvel."

### NBC: Change will come to 'America's Got Talent' if needed

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—An investigation of Gabrielle Union's complaints of racism and other troubling behavior on the set of "America's Got Talent" is being taken very seriously by NBC, the network's entertainment chief said Saturday.

Paul Telegdy said the company will respond appropriately when it receives the findings of its inquiry, which he said may be completed by the end of January.

"I'm very confident if we learn something ... we will put

new practices in place if necessary. We certainly take anyone's critique of what it means to come to work here incredibly seriously," the NBC Entertainment chairman told a TV critics meeting during a Q&A session.

"We want to always go after the truth. That's our culture here, you can ask anyone who works here," he said.

Union, known for her roles in the films "Bring It On" and "Bad Boys II," was a judge on the talent showcase for a season, until she and fellow freshman judge Julianne Hough weren't asked to return.

The trade publication Variety reported that Union, who is black, believed she was fired because she had asked NBC and the show's producers to respond to an environment that tolerated racist jokes and remarks. That included what Union said were multiple notes from producers saying she was wearing her hair "too black" for the "America's Got Talent" audience.

Union had also complained

of other behavior, such as judge-producer Simon Cowell's smoking on the indoor set, Variety reported in November.

NBC has spoken with Union as part of its formal investigation that began in early December.

Without directly referring to NBC or the two companies that produce the show, Fremantle and Syco, Union has tweeted about her situation several times, acknowledging the support she's gotten and retweeting instructions on

how to give a proper apology.

Union's husband, former
NBA player Dwyane Wade,
and other prominent people
have called for answers on
why she was fired.

In a statement last November, NBC and Fremantle defended what they called the show's "long history of inclusivity and diversity."

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, of which Union is a member, also said that it was working with the actress to investigate her complaints.

# Brazil's Supreme Court allows gay Jesus film on Netflix

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— The president of Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday issued an order that allows streaming service Netflix to continue exhibiting a satirical film depicting Jesus as a gay man and reaffirmed Brazilians' right to free speech.

"It is not to be assumed that a humorous satire has the magic power to undermine the values of the Christian faith, whose existence goes back more than two thousand years," Supreme Court President José Antonio Dias Toffoli wrote in his decision.

Netflix earlier the same day filed an official complaint with the country's top legal authority, decrying attempted censorship by a judge in Rio de Janeiro who ordered the film's withdrawal from its platform. The film was never removed.

Still, the Rio judge's ruling has revived scrutiny on what his critics call censorship under the far-right government of President Jair Bolsonaro. His administration has vowed to fight "cultural Marxism" and openly supports Christian

### values. Several shows, plays and conferences have been

shape me. The confluence of wild personalities that came in and out of my life during these times are just fascinating."

It'll be the second NBC series tied to Johnson. He is returning for a second season as host and co-executive pro-

Mission" as well as the 1981

canceled since Bolsonaro took office just over one year ago.

On Wednesday, judge Benedicto Abicair ruled against the film following a petition by a Brazilian Catholic organization that argued the "honor of millions of Catholics" was hurt by the airing of "The First Temptation of Christ." The special was produced by the Rio-based comedy group Porta dos Fundos, whose headquarters was targeted by gasoline bombs on Christmas Eve.

In its complaint filed to the Supreme Court, Netflix's lawvers argued that the judge's decision amounts to censorship and has an impact "equivalent to that of the bomb used in the terrorist attack against the headquarters" of the comedy group. "It silences by means of fear and intimidation."

Felipe Santa Cruz, president of the Brazilian Bar Association, said the ruling went against the Brazilian constitution, which guarantees free expression in the arts, science and communication.

## The Rock to revisit younger years in new NBC comedy series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Dwayne Johnson will revisit his younger years in a new NBC series, "The Rock," which is the retired pro wrestler's nickname.

The network said Saturday that it's ordered 11 episodes of the comedy inspired by Johnson, who will appear in each episode and also serve as an executive producer. He was born in Northern California and spent his childhood growing up everywhere from Hawaii to Tennessee to Connecticut with stops in between.

"We're going to find the Rock wreaking havoc in the streets of Hawaii getting arrested," Johnson said via video. "We were forced to leave the island and move to all places, Nashville, Tennessee. Those were the years that were very formative and helped

ducer of "The Titan Games."

On the big screen, Johnson currently stars in "Jumanji: The Next Level," and he next appears in "Jungle Cruise."

### Scorsese and 'The Irishman' honored by AARP

NEW YORK (AP)—The Golden Globes may not have shown much love to filmmaker Martin Scorsese and his epic "The Irishman," but the AARP has.

The lengthy mobster's tale was just best movie for grownups, in the 19th annual awards doled out by AARP The Magazine. The awards ceremony was held Saturday in Beverly Hills, Calif. Scorsese, its maker, was named best director.

Adam Sandler, who stepped away from roles that appealed to an audience considerably younger than the 50-plus group that the AARP awards cater to, won best actor for his serious turn as a jeweler in "Uncut Gems."

Renee Zellweger, who had the starring role in a biopic about Judy Garland, won best actress.

Supporting actor awards went to Laura Dern, who played a colorful divorce lawyer in "Marriage Story," and Tom Hanks, who was Mr. Rogers in "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

The AARP also honored Annette Bening with a career achievement award.

### **SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**

#### Jimmy Fallon heads to prime-time with celeb musical series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)— Jimmy Fallon is adding his first prime-time series to his his late-night empire. He'll host "That's My Jam," a comedy-variety event series on NBC inspired by his popular, celebrity-studded musical segments on the "The Tonight Show." It will premiere after the Tokyo Olympics in August. Celebrities who love to sing and dance will compete against each other in classic and new musical games. Fallon also will serve as executive producer. Fallon has launched such celebrity sketches as "Wheel of Musical Impressions," "Musical Genre Challenge," and "His-

tory of Rap" on "The Tonight

Show" which have been viral hits on YouTube and Face-

#### **Actor Jeremy Irons** to head jury at Berlin film festival

BERLIN (AP) — British actor Jeremy Irons will head the jury at the Berlin International Film Festival next month, organizers said Thursday. Irons will be jury president at the festival's 70th edition, running from Feb. 20 to March 1. Other members of the jury haven't yet been named. Irons' screen and stage career started in the 1970s. He won a best actor Oscar in 1991 for his role in "Reversal of Fortune" and had acclaimed performances in films including "the French Lieutenant's Woman" and "The

TV miniseries "Brideshead Revisited." Irons said in a statement released by festival organizers that he was taking on the festival role "with feelings of great pleasure and not inconsiderable honor." "With his distinctive style, Jeremy Irons has embodied some iconic characters that have accompanied me throughout my journey in cinema, making me aware of the complexity of human beings," Carlo Chatrian, the festival's artistic director, said. This year's festival is the first under the leadership of Chatrian, who previously headed the Locarno film festival, and executive director Mariette Rissenbeek. The duo replaced Dieter Kosslick, who directed the event for 18 years.

### Challenges, distractions stymie Weinstein jury selection

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The already contentious jury selection at the trial of Harvey Weinstein was stymied by more challenges and distractions Friday: denied defense requests to disqualify numerous prospective jurors and a noisy anti-Weinstein protest.

Dozens of women danced in formation and sang on the sidewalk outside the Manhattan courthouse where the disgraced movie mogul is on trial, causing a commotion so loud that that it could be heard in a 15th-floor courtroom.

Though lyrics including, "The rapist is you" weren't discernible inside, defense attorney Damon Cheronis later complained to the judge, "It's this type of atmosphere that makes it impossible for Mr. Weinstein to get a fair trial."

Judge James Burke brushed off a defense motion to exclude any potential juror who heard the commotion.



Harvey Weinstein arrives at court with his attorney Donna Rotunno to attend jury selection for his sexual assault trial, Friday, Jan. 10, 2020 in New York.

"You're probably not aware of this, but people chant and protest outside this courthouse all the time," he said.

The exchange reflected the difficulties of picking a jury to decide the fate of Weinstein, who's pleaded not guilty to charges he raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and sexually assaulted another woman, Mimi Haleyi, in 2006. If convicted at a trial expected to last into March, the 67-year-old ex-studio boss could face life in prison.

Hundreds of New Yorkers have been summoned for jury duty, with most dismissed when they indicated by a show of hands that they couldn't keep an open mind about Weinstein.

### Man is reluctant to share memories of his late father

EAR ABBY: My boyfriend of two years and I recently moved in together. When we first met, he let me know he had lost his father to cancer a few years prior. While I know a little about his father, it is mostly superficial.

As our relationship has progressed—moving in, talking about our future —I long to know more about his dad. What kind of a father and husband was he? What special memories does my boyfriend have of spending time with him? However, when I ask questions, I get succinct answers with no elaboration. If I ask more than one question at a time, I feel like I'm pulling teeth, so I just drop it. When I asked if he's uncomfortable talking about it, he says it's fine, but I still know next to nothing.

The only time he brings up his dad is around the time of his dad's birthday, the anniversary of his death or the time when they found out about his prognosis. At those times he is clearly grieving. I don't want to cause my boyfriend more pain, and I worry that I'm being insensitive by asking him to talk about it. Yet, if we are going to start a life together and be a family one day, I want to know about his father.

CURIOUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR CURIOUS: Your boyfriend may not want to discuss his relationship with his father because the subject is

painful, either because of his death or because they were not close. If you want more details, you might have better luck asking your boyfriend's mother or his siblings, if he has any. Because the subject clearly makes him uncomfortable, back off.

**DEAR ABBY:** I don't smoke, but my mother and fiancee are chain smokers. This is particularly annoying when the three of us eat together because they always light up during the meal. For example, they'll almost always have a cigarette after the salad, another before the dessert and then two or three cigarettes afterward. It ruins the meal for me.

I'm really disappointed in my fiancee, who seems to have forgotten her promise to quit smoking before our wedding day. Is there anything I can do about their smoking at the dinner table? And should I remind my fiancee about her promise to give up cigarettes and be a smoke-free bride?

ANNOYED IN ALABAMA

DEAR ANNOYED: Your mother and your fiancee are nicotine addicts. That they cannot get through a meal without lighting at least three cigarettes is alarming. No rule of etiquette dictates that you must tolerate secondhand smoke while you are trying to enjoy your dinner. If they need a

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



fix, they should be considerate enough to excuse themselves from the table to indulge.

On a slightly different, but equally important, subject, your fiancee has not "forgotten" her promise to give up cigarettes before your wedding. She's ignoring it, and you haven't called her on it. Please do. If you marry her, you will be living in a tobacco haze for the rest of her life, which could have a negative effect on your—and your children's —health in the future. Don't say you weren't warned.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.) **22** MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Pastimes**

### Calvin and Hobbes

### By Bill Waterson

### **Garfield**®

#### By Jim Davis













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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy









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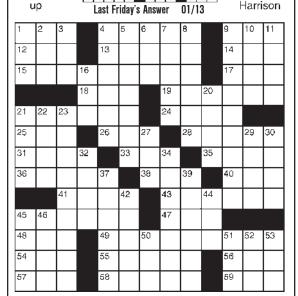
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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liam** Hemsworth, 30; Orlando Bloom, 43; Patrick Dempsey, 54: Julia Louis-Drevfus, 59.

Happy Birthday: Get ready to take action. Initiate change, look for a way to expand and make whatever comes available work to your advantage. Keep emotional matters in the background, and let whoever is making a fuss chill out before you make suggestions or offer help. Make your life, goals and needs priorities, and you will find satisfaction and success. Your numbers are 8, 15, 22, 29, 33, 35, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put additional effort into how you earn your living and handle your financial affairs. If you decide to make a move or change, keep it to a

minimum and stay within your budget. Personal improvement is favored. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have

options. Set expectations and goals that are doable. Check out courses or apprenticeships that interest you. Look for a better position or a way to cut your overhead or invest wisely. Having a safety net will ease stress. OOOOO

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Check out any offer that comes your way. Mixing business with pleasure will be difficult.

Someone you feel responsible for will use emotional tactics to get his or her way. Don't feel guilty; do what's right. Pay attention to health issues. 🛇



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do your best to help those in need. Your input will make a difference as well as give your reputation a boost. Time spent with someone you love will bring you closer together. A change will end up being to your benefit. ••••

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick to what works best for you. Don't expect everyone to be happy with your decision. Do something that physically challenges you. Blowing off steam will lower your stress and encourage strength when dealing with sensitive issues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do something that brings you joy. Focus on dealing with outsiders who can offer something new and exciting. It's time to do things your way and stop worrying about what others think or do. OOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An emotional situation will surface if you ignore what others are trying to ask for or tell you. Honesty will help you handle a difficult situation. Take one step at a time. A day trip will be enlightening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Quicken your pace, and get your plans rolled out. Start to put your ideas in motion, even if vou feel unprepared. Cast your fate to the wind. and follow your heart. Your effort will serve you well. Broaden your vision.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may think you know what's unfolding emotionally, but someone will take you by surprise and leave you questioning what's happening. Don't overreact or exaggerate. Keep the peace until you have verified what's going on. OO

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't

wait; put your plans in motion, and don't look back. Know what you want, and go after it wholeheartedly. Stay on top of situations that can affect your emotional well-being, but don't give in to anyone trying to manipulate you. ���

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider your options. Contact people who can help you. Think about partnering with someone who can bring new life to an old plan. Channel your energy into development, hands-on help and using your skills and experience to bring about change. **OOO** 

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll make a good impression if you help others. How you handle change will make a difference to the outcome of a situation that harbors resentment. Be smart -- listen, observe and make well-thought-out decisions. Don't give up

on your dreams. OOO Birthday Baby: You are forceful, encouraging and meticulous. You are practical and responsive.

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HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELRWORD.

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WONDERWORD

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★

1/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Last Friday's Answer

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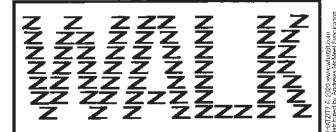
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section



# Titans stun Ravens, head to AFC title game



(AP)—With his bright red shoes and relentless running, Derrick

Henry grabbed the spotlight and wouldn't let go.

When he was done leading Tennessee into the AFC championship game Saturday night, he did a lengthy victory lap around the Baltimore Ravens' home, slapping hands and taking selfies with Titans fans.

It has been quite a twoweek ride.

"It's not just me," Henry said after rushing for 195 yards and throwing a 3-yard touchdown pass in a 28-12 upset of the NFL's top team Saturday night. "It's a team effort. We're all playing collectively as an offense, as a whole. We're just locked in. We believe in each other. We communicate. It's working out there."

The Titans fear no one, and why should they with Henry rushing-and even throwing—the ball, and a big-play defense making clutch stops and turnovers?

One week after dominating defending Super Bowl champion New England, the Titans (11-7) eliminated Baltimore (14-3). The Ravens had won their last 12 games, with quarterback Lamar Jackson setting records and looking unstoppable.

On Saturday night, it was Henry who was unstoppable, despite Baltimore stacking eight men up front on almost two-thirds of his runs. At times, Henry used power to create space, at others the holes the line provided were huge.

"Watch us work," said Henry, the NFL's leading rusher this season. "We don't do too much talking. We just go work and believe in each other. That's our mentality. We're going to come in here and work. ... Focus on finishing."

Tennessee's defense had two interceptions of All-Pro QB Jackson, who also lost a fumble, and the Titans twice stopped Baltimore on fourth-and-1.

Henry's jump-pass to Corey Davis displayed yet another of his skills. He has completed three throws in four attempts in his career.

"I put it perfect, man," he said with a smile. "I haven't done that pass since high school. I feel l like I still got

But it's the way he plows over and through opponents that makes Henry—and the Titans—dangerous. Next week, they will go after their second Super Bowl trip and first since the 1999 season, either at Kansas City or Houston. The last sixth seed to get to the big game was Green



# Jackson, Ravens can't sustain regular season success

BALTIMORE (AP)—The but Jackson also threw two Lamar Jackson who ran with abandon and thew 36 touchdown passes for the best team in the league failed to show up in the playoffs -- again.

During his marvelous second season in the NFL, Jackson was an All-Pro quarterback who carried the Baltimore Ravens to the best record in the league. Jackson amassed the most yards rushing by a quarterback in league history and was the catalyst of an offense that led the NFL in scoring.

He put up some gaudy numbers on Saturday night against Tennessee—running for 143 yards and amassing 365 yards through the air—

Bay in the 2010 season; the Packers won it all.

Tennessee scored all of its points off takeaways or fourthdown stops.

Ryan Tannehill's throws to Jonnu Smith and Kalif Raymond, who missed the last two games in concussion protocol, gave Tennessee a 14-point edge.

Tennessee's first score came after tight end Mark Andrews, the Ravens' top receiver this season, mistimed his leap and had Jackson's pass deflect into the air. Safety Kevin Byard was there to pick it off.

Byard scooted 31 yards down the left side, and with a 15-yard personal foul penalty interceptions, lost a fumble and failed twice on fourthand-1 carries and led Baltimore to just one touchdown in a 28-12 upset loss.

And that is why the topseeded Ravens are done for the season, much sooner than expected. Baltimore's 12game winning streak, homefield advantage and status as the top seed in the AFC proved completely irrelevant.

"We just beat ourselves. I had a lot of mistakes on my behalf," Jackson said. "Three turnovers. That shouldn't happen."

Coming off a three-week break and looking appropriately rusty in doing so, an er-

on Jackson added, the Titans were at the Baltimore 35. The hushed crowd then saw five straight Titans runs to the 4 before Earl Thomas came free untouched for an 8-yard sack.

Tennessee simply shrugged and Smith made a juggling catch in the left corner of the end zone. Replay determined he landed barely in bounds for a 7-0 lead.

A fourth-down stop with less than a yard to go—the first time in nine tries all season the Ravens failed on fourth-and-1—set up Tennessee's next touchdown. Tannehill made it 14-0 with his gorgeous long pass that floated over Raymond's shoulder

ror-prone Jackson didn't get the Ravens into the end zone until the fourth quarter. That's exactly what happened a year ago, when Baltimore scored two late touchdowns in their playoff opener against the Los Angeles Chargers.

Jackson's goal this season was to erase the memory of that game, which came after he guided Baltimore to a 6-1 finish. Jackson went 2 of 8 for 17 yards and an interception in the first half against the Chargers, and the Ravens fell behind 23-3 in a one-and-out playoff performance.

It was Super Bowl or bust this time around, and Baltimore sure looked capable of making that happen. Jackson

into his arms behind All-Pro defensive back Marcus Peters for a 45-yard touchdown. That throw accounted for just over half of Tannehill's yards passing for the entire game: 88.

The folks in the stands dressed in purple, who hadn't seen their team in such a deep hole since the end of September, had gone silent.

### **49ers 27, Vikings 19**

In Santa Clara, Richard Sherman anticipated the route for an interception and then watched the San Francisco 49ers run eight straight times for the touchdown that put them in control of their first playoff game in six years.

and the Ravens were virtually unstoppable over the final three months, slapping aside some of the best teams in the league with surprising ease.

And then, this.

Jackson is 19-3 as as starter during the regular season and 0 and 2 in the playoffs. Now he's got to live with that for

"I know how he's going to respond," coach John Harbaugh said. "He's going to respond by being extremely motivated and determined to improve as a football player. The strides he made between last year and this year are pretty indicative of that."

That's what made this game so darn surprising.

The dominant defense and powerful running game that carried the Niners to an 8-0 start this season delivered a over the Minnesota Vikings in the divisional round.

"People keep disrespecting us. At the end of the day, all you can do is go out and execute," Sherman said. "It felt good. That's what we look like when we're totally healthy."

The return of injured defensive starters Dee Ford, Kwon Alexander and Jaquiski Tartt had the Niners (14-3) playing as they did in the first half of the season as they set a franchise playoff record by allowing only 147 yards.

Jimmy Garoppolo threw a

Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry (22) runs past Baltimore Ravens strong safety Chuck Clark (36) during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff game, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, in Baltimore.

TD pass on his opening drive as a playoff starter and then mostly watched his defense and running game take over from there. The top-seeded 49ers turned a pair of secondhalf turnovers by Minnesota (11-7) into 10 points.

"They're pretty right?" tight end George Kittle said of his defense. "It's such a blast just to watch them, how they work together. ...

"If our defense keeps playing like that, all we have to do is not turn the ball over to win games"

Sherman set up Tevin Coleman's second short touchdown run of the game when he beat Adam Thielen to the spot to intercept Kirk Cousins for his third career playoff interception.

Coleman had five of the eight carries on the 44-yard drive as part of a 105-yard rushing performance.

"Those guys did very well," Coleman said of his offensive line. "They moved the guys back so I had clear holes to run through. So, yeah, they did a real good job."

Marcus Sherels' fumbled punt later in the third quarter led to a field goal that made it 27-10 early in the fourth

San Francisco didn't allow Minnesota to gain a first down for more than 27 minutes of game action starting late in the second quarter.

The Niners will host the NFC championship game next week against the winner of Sunday's game between Seattle and Green Bay.

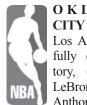
Garoppolo threw an interception deep in his own territory late in the first half and then spent most of the second half handing the ball off to Coleman and Raheem

There was little reason for coach Kyle Shanahan to take chances the way his defense completely bottled up talented runner Dalvin Cook. That took away Minnesota's play-action game and forced Cousins into becoming a drop-back passer.

"We didn't do enough offensively to give ourselves a chance to win the game," Cousins said. "It hurts right now. It's so raw right now, just falling short."

Cousins finished 21 for 29 for 172 yards with his only big play coming on a 41-yard TD pass to Stefon Diggs in the first quarter.

# Sans LeBron and AD, Lakers still rout Thunder



CITY (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers fully expected victory, even without LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

Kyle Kuzma was among those who took advantage. He scored a season-high 36 points and the Lakers rolled past the Oklahoma City Thunder, 125-110 on Saturday night.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said James had a chest cold. James is averaging 25.4 points, a league-leading 10.7 assists and 8.7 rebounds and has helped the Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference.

Davis, who leads the Lakers with 27.1 points per game, sat out for his second straight game with a gluteus maximus contusion.

Still, the Lakers felt they had enough to win, even against a Thunder team that had won 11 of 13.

"That's why you have a great team," said Quinn Cook, who led the Lakers' reserves

OKLAHOMA with 13 points. "We want to have guys who contribute one through 15. That's the goal of anybody putting a team together. Obviously, this team is talented. Everybody is selfless and everybody is ready. We all put the work in."

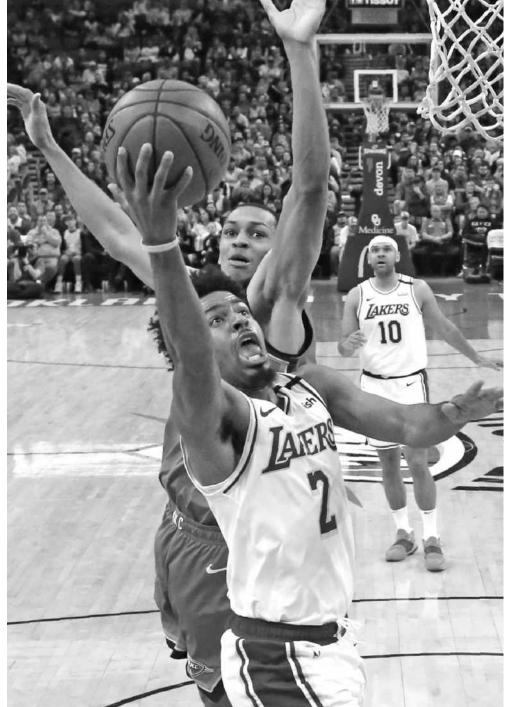
> Kuzma, in just his third start of the season, made 15

"I just got an opportunity to get scoring opportunities, having the ball in my hands," Kuzma said.

Rajon Rondo added 21 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Lakers. Los Angeles shot 51.5% to win its eighth in a row.

"Rondo set the tone for us," Kuzma said. "Going right after CP (Chris Paul) right out of the gate, being aggressive with his scoring. A lot of times, everybody knows him as a passfirst guy. He came out today in attack mode."

James played on Friday night and had 35 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists in a win over the Dallas Mavericks.



Brendan Steele takes control in Hawaii

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Saturday was no time to panic, especially at the Sony Open with so many players in the mix that one shot could lead to a good run and change the land-

SONYOpen scape in a hurry. That's what hap-

pened to Brendan Steele.

He went from a share of the lead to three shots behind through four holes. He had one birdie on his card. And then he hit his best shot of the day and seized control of the Sony Open.

Steele hit a 4-iron from 210 yards into a left-to-right wind that he had to turn over to get to a flag on the left side of the green. He hit it to 8 feet for eagle, and he was on

"I needed to really hit it solid, and hit it well, and turn it over," Steele said. "Did all those things and it ended up being the right number."

He played the final 10 holes in 7 under, and the number that mattered was 12-under 198, and a threeshot lead over Cameron Smith of Australia going into the final round.

Steele had a share of the lead to start the day, with 23 players separated by three shots. Now only Smith is within three of the lead, and he had to work hard to stay that close. Smith birdied four of his last five holes for a 66.

"It wasn't looking too pretty at the start theredidn't start with my best golf," Smith said. "Got into the swing of things on the back nine. Started to feel a little bit more comfortable with my swing rather than worrying about what I was doing with my swing just went

ahead and tried to hit some golf shots. It was good to get in that frame of mind

before tomorrow."

Steele is going for his fourth PGA Tour victory, and his first since repeating at the Safeway Open in the fall of 2017. His daughter was born two weeks later. He has had only two top 10s in 50 tournaments worldwide since then, and one of those was a team event in New Orleans.

"It's always going to be difficult no matter what," Steele said of the final round. "Would be very rare to come out and birdie the first six holes and have it never be in question. So, as much as I would like that, I know it's going to be tough. I'm going to have to battle. But it's nothing that I haven't seen before."

Each day, the wind has lost a little strength at Waialae. Each day, the top score has been a little lower.

Steele, Kevin Kisner and Mark Anderson each shot 64, the low score of the week. Kisner was tied for the lead when he finished his round, feeling a lot better about his chances than the previous week at Kapalua, a big golf course where power players thrive. Kisner is more about iron play, and Waialae suits him well.

He just wasn't expecting Steele to take off the way he did.

Without him, the Lakers raced to a 73-49 halftime lead over the Thunder behind 58% shooting. Kuzma scored 23 points before the break. It was Oklahoma City's largest halftime deficit of the season.

The Lakers extended the lead to 32 in the third quarter before Oklahoma City rallied and trimmed its deficit to 102-82 at the end of the period.

The Thunder got as close as 11 points with 2:37 to go before a short jumper and a 3-pointer by Kuzma ended the rally.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Danilo Gallinari each scored 24 points for Oklahoma City. The Thunder came out flat after an emotional win over the Houston Rockets in Russell Westbrook's return on Thursday.

It was a tough lesson for the Thunder, who have been surprisingly good this season.

"I thought that they brought the energy and the intensity, and we didn't match it from the first minute," Gallinari said.

### Rockets 139, **Timberwolves 109**

In Houston James Harden

scored 32 points in three quarters to surpass 20,000 and the Rockets rolled past Minnesota.

Houston led by double figures for most of the game and used a huge run in the third quarter to put it out of reach and bounce back after a lopsided loss to Oklahoma City on Thursday night.

Harden is the 45th player in NBA history to reach 20,000 points, and at 30, the seventh-youngest. He entered the game 10 points away and reached the milestone in fitting fashion, on a step-back 3-pointer midway through the second quarter. He also had 12 rebounds and eight assists,

Already without Clint Capela because of a bruised heel, the Rockets lost fellow starter P.J. Tucker early in the first quarter when he fell hard on his right shoulder. But Houston was just fine without them thanks to another big game from Harden and a 30-point performance by Russell Westbrook.

Josh Okogie had 16 points for Minnesota. Karl-Anthony Towns remained out with a left knee sprain that has had him sidelined since mid-December.

### Mavericks 109, 76ers 91

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 19 points and 12 assists, Dwight Powell scored 10 of his 19 points in a decisive third quarter in Mavericks' victory over Philadelphia.

Powell was 5 of 6 from the field and had four of his season-high 12 rebounds in the third quarter, when the Mavericks outscored the 76ers 32-16 to turn a nine-point deficit into a 73-66 lead that grew to a 21-point margin in the fourth.

Tobias Harris had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the 76ers. Philadelphia played its second game without Joel Embiid. The star center is sidelined after surgery for a torn ligament in a finger on his left hand.

It was Dallas' seventh straight game, and possibly last, without its big man, Kristaps Porzingis. The 7-foot-3 Latvian has been out with right knee soreness, not the same knee he injured in his final game with the New York Knicks.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Quinn Cook (2) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder forward Darius Bazley during the second half of an NBA game Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, in Oklahoma City

#### Celtics 140, Pelicans 105

In Boston, Jayson Tatum made six 3-pointers and had careerhigh 41 points to help the Celtics snap a season-high, threegame losing streak.

Enes Kanter added 22 points, Gordon Hayward had 19, and Kemba Walker finished with 17 points and seven assists. Boston shot 14 of 29 from the 3-point line and tied a season high for points.

Frank Jackson scored 22 points for New Orleans. Jaxson Hayes added 20.

#### Cavaliers 113, Nuggets 103

In Denver, Kevin Love had 19 points and 15 rebounds to lead Cleveland past the Nuggets.

Collin Sexton finished with 25 points, and Tristan Thompson had 18 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland in its second straight victory. The Nuggets trailed by as many as 17 and were down 14 to start the fourth before outscoring the Cavaliers 25-10, led by Jamal Murray and Nikola Jokic, before Cleveland recovered.

Murray finished with 24 points, and Jokic had 19.

#### **Bucks 122,** Trail Blazers 101

In Portland, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 17 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 30 points and Milwaukee beat the Trail Blazers.

Eric Bledsoe added 29 points for the Bucks. They made 14 3-pointers, with Middleton going 4 for 4.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 26 points, CJ Mc-Collum had 20 and Carmelo Anthony added 19 points and 11 rebounds. The Trail Blazers have lost eight of 10.

### **Bulls 108, Pistons 99**

In Detroit, Zach LaVine scored 25 points and Chicago held off the Pistons to snap a six-game losing streak.

Already without injured Blake Griffin, the Pistons lost Andre Drummond when he was ejected early in the third quarter. Drummond threw the ball off the back of Daniel Gafford's head. The exchange also resulted in a technical foul on Gafford.

Luke Kornet scored 15 points for the Bulls, and Lauri Markkanen and Gafford added 14 each.

Derrick Rose led the Pistons with 20 point

# Serena breaks 3-year title drought

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—Serena Williams broke a three-year title drought when she beat fellow American Jessica Pegula 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to win the singles final at the ASB Classic.

Williams hadn't won a title since the Australian Open singles in January, 2017, and not since she became a mother to her daughter Olympia, who was court-side to see the victory.

The 23-time major winner donated her \$43,000 winner's check to the fundraising appeal for victims of Australian wildfires, joining many other tennis stars, such as Ash Barty, Nick Kygrios, Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova, who have pledged money to the already monthslong fire emergency there.

Williams was under pressure at first against the 25-year-old Pegula, playing in her third WTA final, but asserted herself more as the match went on to claim her 73rd win in 98 finals and to add her name to a trophy won by her sister, Venus, in 2015.

"It feels good. It's been a long time," Williams said. "I think you can see the relief on my face.

"I played an incredible opponent today in Jessica and, honestly, it was a great match and I couldn't have played anyone better in the final."

The last three years have been challenging for Williams as she juggled to competing demands of tennis and motherhood. But she seemed to turn a corner during a demanding week in which she played both doubles and singles, turning out on all seven days of the tournament.

She was frequently behind in her matches but showed typical determination to fight her way to the final and over-



come Pegula, who ousted former World No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki in the semifinals.

Pegula has been on a steady climb up the rankings since overcoming a serious knee injury two years ago. The daughter of Buffalo Bills owners Terry and Kim Pegula, she won her maiden WTA title in 2019 and appeared to be a star on the rise in all her matches in Auckland.

Pegula broke Williams in the opening game and was dominant for the first half of the first set, moving Williams around to open up the court for her punishing passing shots. She also chased down everything, making returns that Williams thought out of her reach.

But Williams visibly called on herself to lift near the middle of the set, breaking to level at 3-3. She then held serve to love and broke Pegula for 5-3, serving out the first set in 51 minutes.

Williams broke Pegula to love in the third game of the second set as she steadily began to dominate. She had three

match points on Pegula's serve before clinching the match on serve in just over 90 minutes.

"It definitely feels good," Williams said. "It feels that I was definitely improving as the week went on.'

### Spain vs Serbia

In Australia, Rafael Nadal was coming off a really late night, and was determined to finish work before midnight on the eve of the inaugural ATP Cup final against Serbia.

After more than 20 tight games against 20-year-old Alex de Minaur's relentless attack, Nadal converted his first service break

to clinch the second set and then it was all one-way in a 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 win as he secured Spain's semifinal win against host Australia on Saturday night.

Top-ranked Nadal and his

Spanish team will face No. 2-ranked Djokovic's Serbian team on Sunday night for the first title in the new 24-team tournament. international Djokovic beat Daniil Medvedev, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4, to secure Serbia's win over Russia in the first of the semifinals.

Nadal said it's been a difficult few days for Spain. The Davis Cup champions played the group stage in Perth and had a transcontinental trip to Sydney for the playoffs.

He didn't want any repeats of the quarterfinals the previous night, when he lost to David Goffin—just his second loss in a singles match since a semifinal defeat to Roger Federer at Wimbledon-and then didn't win the deciding doubles encounter against Belgium until after 1 a.m. in a match tiebreaker.

So Nadal basically finished a quarterfinal and a semifinal on the same date. He didn't get to bed until 5:30 a.m., and wasn't happy about the scheduling.

"Yeah, has been a tough couple of days, especially for Team Spain ... with jet lag to make things even a little bit more difficult," Nadal said. "But here we are. Has been important day for us. Roberto played an amazing match, and I had a great comeback."



# BOSTON (AP)—Out-fielder Mookie

Betts agreed Friday to a \$27 million contract with the Boston Red Sox, the largest oneyear salary for an arbitrationeligible player.

Outfielder Jackie Bradley Jr. also agreed to an \$11 million deal, ensuring Boston will avoid salary arbitration with two of its biggest stars.

Outfielder Andrew Benintendi and left-handed starter Eduardo Rodríguez did not agree to deals and swapped numbers for arbitration. Benintendi asked for \$4.15 million and was offered \$3.4 million—a big raise from his \$717,500 salary in 2019. Rodríguez is seeking \$8,975,000 and was offered \$8.3 million, a bump from \$4,325,000.

Boston also agreed to salaries for relievers Brandon

# Betts agrees to record \$27M deal with Red Sox

ASB

Workman (\$3.5 million), Matt Barnes (\$3.1 million) and Heath Hembree (\$1,612,500)

Betts' deal topped the \$26 million agreement last winter for third baseman Nolan Arenado, which led to negotiations for a \$260 million, eightyear deal.

A four-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove winner, Betts is eligible for free agency after this season.

He was voted the American League MVP in 2018, when he hit a major league-leading .346 with 32 homers and 80 RBI, then helped the Red Sox to the World Series title. He hit .295 last season with 29 homers and 80 RBI.

Bradley is known for his spectacular plays in the outfield, but his bat has been a liability at times. He is streaky, hitting .315 with five homers and 14 RBI in June but just .225 for the season as a whole, with 21 homers and 62 RBI. He led the league in putouts and assists as a center fielder.

Last year was a setback for the 25-year-old Benintendi in virtually every offensive category, raising concerns that he has hit his ceiling. Benintendi batted .266 in 2019 with 13 homers, 68 RBI and 10 stolen bases.

After years of waiting for Rodríguez to develop into a stalwart of the rotation, he finally emerged as a front-line, if unspectacular, starter. He made every start, topped 200 innings for the first time and had a chance at 20 wins going into the regular season finale. In all, that added up to a 19-6 record. with a 3.81 ERA in 203 1/3 innings, all the best in his career.

Thrust into the de facto closer role by the departure of Craig Kimbrel, Workman emerged as a dependable lateinning reliever. At the age of 30, he posted a 10-1 record with 16 saves and a 1.88 ERA, striking out 104 batters -- all the best in his career.

Barnes, 29, has also emerged as a reliable arm in the bullpen, good for 60-plus appearances a year and a lot of strikeouts. Although the right-hander's strikeouts have increased each year, he walked a career-high 38 batters in 64 innings in 2019, a small step back.

### **Bryant stays with Cubs**

In Chicago, third baseman Kris Bryant avoided arbitration with the Chicago Cubs, agreeing Friday to an \$18.6 million, one-year contract.

The Cubs also avoided arbitration with their other five eligible players, agreeing to one-year deals with star shortstop Javier Baez (\$10 million), All-Star catcher Willson Contreras (\$4.5 million), slugger Kyle Schwarber (\$7.01 million), outfielder Albert Almora Jr. (\$1,575,000) and reliever Kyle Ryan (\$975,000).

Bryant got a significant boost from the \$12.9 million he earned last year. The 2016 NL MVP rebounded from an injury-filled season to bat .282 with 31 homers and 77 RBI.

It is unclear whether he will remain with the team he led to the 2016 World Series championship, the Cubs' first title since 1908. Chicago's thin minor league system, the young players Bryant could bring back in a trade and the large

contract the three-time All-Star would figure to command as a free agent have all thrown his future into question. He also has a pending grievance he filed in the hope of becoming a free agent one year earlier than scheduled.

Bryant debuted on April 17, 2015, leaving him one day shy of the service time needed to become a free agent after the 2020 season. He contends he was held in the minors in a deliberate effort to delay his freeagent eligibility and that delay violated baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

Baez, one of baseball's most exciting players, nearly doubled his salary from \$5.2 million last season. He hit .281 with 29 homers and made his second straight All-Star team after finishing second to Milwaukee's Christian Yelich in the 2018 NL MVP voting.

# MHS Varsity clinches girls basketball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselvn monrovo@saipantribune.com



Marianas High School Varsity was unbeaten in the double-elim-

ination playoffs to rule the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League.

MHS Varsity clinched the championship after downing MHS Junior Varsity in Game 1 of the finals, 19-8, last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium. Jaime Pangelinan top-scored for MHS Varsity in its title win after scoring 8 points. Joining Pangelinan on the champion team are Desrei Camacho, Alliyah Fernandez, Katrina Costales, Katherine Magat, Jerlyn Castillo, Sedrei Camacho, Winneb Echavez, Sydney Hinds, and Kina Rangamar.

The finals victory allowed MHS Varsity to preserve its perfect record this season, as the Lady Dolphins earned a 12-0 record in the preliminary round and notched four wins in the playoffs last weekend.

MHS Varsity faced the winless Kagman High School in the first round of the playoffs last Friday and won to boost its finals bid. Up next for MHS Varsity was MHS JV, which advanced after downing Tinian, and the former prevailed anew to notch the first semis berth in the winners' bracket.

In the semifinals, MHS Varsity dueled Saipan Southern High School, the No. 2 finisher in the preliminary with its 9-3 mark and moved to the battle

#### NMA said in a press statement. "The NMA conveys its

warm regards and much success to the newly elected NMSA board of directors and applauds them for taking up the challenges facing our sports family, here and abroad. We are inspired and eager to work with this new leadership."

## **FULL**

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cerest appreciation and gratitude to the previous board members of NMSA for their countless contribution and personal sacrifices to all our sports federations. It was not easy. Thank you for your volunteerism," the

### **ROLLERS 1**

From Page 28

sent JayArt Palmes to the 15foot line. Palmes made his first charity, but missed the second, handing Rollers 2 a precarious 46-44 lead and leaving a room for the Sonics to knot the count with a deuce or grab the lead with a triple.

The 670 Sonics opted for a quick 2 with Bravo driving strong to the basket and drawing a foul from a Rollers 2 defenders. Bravo hit his first free and faltered on the second one and after the Rollers 2 got the ball, Freddie Pelisamen made a handoff to John Paul Cruz in the paint, but the latter's short shot rimmed out. There was a battle for the rebound between Pelisamen and Bryan Bernardo and after a jumpball was called, possession arrow pointed to the Sonics.

The Sonics then sued for timeout to map out a makeor-break play with 8.9 seconds remaining on the clock

It turned out to be a heartbreaker for the top-ranked Sonics as when the game resumed, Carlos Elchico threw the inbound pass to no one near their bench. Bravo attempted to chase the ball, but Cruz beat him, and the former was slapped with a foul for undercutting the latter. Cruz, with 2 seconds left in the game, hit nothing but the bottom of the net for his first shot from the foul line before missing the second one. The opposing teams battled for the rebound and neither got clear

possession as time expired, giving Rollers 2 the first finals berth in the division.

Rollers 1 then secured the other finals ticket after playing better in the second half and stunning the Ol'Aces 1.

Down at halftime, 26-29, Steve King, Roger Valencia, and Matthew Richardson made key baskets in the second half to bring Rollers 1 back into the game and complete the comefrom-behind victory.

Valencia recorded all his 7 points in the second half, King added 6, while Richardson also had 7 markers and delivered five crucial free throws in the homestretch.

"Both games were tough wins and we need those kind of matches to help our players improve their level of play," Diaz said.

### **First Game**

Rollers 2 47—Mizutani 19, Toves 11, Palmes 5, Pelisamen 4, Cruz 3, Claridades 3, Pangelinan 2.

**670 Sonics 45**—Itaas 12, Elchico 6, Ferrari 5, Ordona 4, Rizo 4, Bernardo 4, Manalo 4, Francisco 2, Bravo 1.

Scoring by halves: 22-28,

### **Second Game**

Rollers 1 63—Ricgardson 17, King 11, Lajara 11, Valencia 7, Atalig 5, Dela Cruz 4, Deleon Guerrero 4.

Ol'Aces 1 58—Laniyo 10, Omelau 10, Soriano 9, Ichihara 9, Atan 8, Laxa 2, Menchar 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-29,



for the first finals ticket after topping Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School. The Lady Dolphins posted a 23-14 victory over the Lady Rays to reach the finals first.

Saipan Southern and MHS JV dropped to the loser's bracket with the latter eliminating Tinian to earn the right to face the Lady Rays for the second and last finals seat.

MHS JV then held Saipan Southern to 2 points in the first half of their semis duel en route to a 16-6 triumph, setting up an all-Lady Dolphins title showdown.

MHS Varsity got a twice-tobeat advantage in the finals, as it was undefeated in the playoffs. Pangelinan and company then finished off MHS JV, racing to a 6-0 lead in the first half of the 24-minute game and remaining in control in the second to cap the season with a clean record.

Marianas High School Varsity's Kina Rangamar takes a shot against the MHS Junior Varsity's Nathanette Blas during the first half of their title game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball eague last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.



Marianas High School Varsity and Junior Varsity players pose with coaches Dan Wollak, back row left, and Preston Basa, back row right, after playing in the finals.

### TAN

From Page 28

to them. Tan proposed to create committees that would focus on these priorities, while further discussion among the NMSA general membership and the active involvement of the private and public sectors are expected in the coming months, as the new NMSA leadership aims to bring everyone on board to get things going.

### Commending White

Meanwhile, the new NMSA board would like to acknowledge its predecessor, particularly former NMSA president

Michael White, who led the group for 16 years. White was nominated on the board anew during last month's selection, but politely withdrew his nomination.

"For 16 years, Michael White steered NMSA through hardships and triumphs. To volunteer his time and effort for that long period of time speaks volume of his profound love and concern to CNMI sports, particularly our athletes. He has done a lot for CNMI sports and the new NMSA board will do its very best to continue the changes and developments he has instilled," Tan said.

Under White's leadership,

the CNMI was able to win the hosting rights for the 2006 Micronesian Games and the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. He also led the Commonwealth in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau where the CNMI won its most gold medals (44).

The CNMI Sports Hall of Famer was at the forefront, too, of the successful move to give NMSA the right to manage and maintain the Oleai Sports Complex. White also helped NMSA/ CNMI gain membership to the Oceania National Olympic Committee and Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire, allowing CNMI athletes and officials

to participate in events sanctioned by the two groups. The former NMSA head had also coordinated with government agencies and other concerned groups to seek grants for the improvement of the sports facilities in the Commonwealth.

"On behalf of the new NMSA board, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Michael White for without his leadership and passion for CNMI sports, these accomplishments will not be possible. He will be an inspiration to us, as we work on realizing our vision for NMSA and the members of our sports community," Tan said. (PR)



**Titans stun** Ravens, head to AFC title game

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Sans LeBron and AD. Lakers still rout Thunder

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

### **28** MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

# Tan elected NMSA president; board identifies concerns



CNMI sports staunched sup-Jerry Tan was voted president

of the Northern Marianas Sports Association during the group's board election last Wednesday.

Joining Tan, who is also the head of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, on the NMSA board of officers are Northern Marianas Athletics' Ramon Tebuteb (vice president); Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's Valerie Hofschneider (secretary); and Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's John Hirsh (treasurer). Directors



Tan

Justin Andrew, James Lee,

and Laurie Peterka are on the

board, too, while two more







Hirsh

election and deeply grateful for the trust that the NMSA board and the general membership have given me." Tan said.

with

group of of-

ficials. They

will serve on

the board for

honored and

humbled

two years.

"The new NMSA board and the rest of the sports community, along with our government and business leaders have a lot of work to do, as we prepare for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and address the concerns of our athletes, coaches, and each sports federation. With these challenges ahead, I humbly ask for everyone's support so that we can achieve our goals for CNMI sports," the new NMSA head added.

After the election, the NMSA board immediately had a meeting to discuss its priorities. Concerns on facilities, particularly the Oleai Sports Complex and the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, competitions (international and local) and technical development of each sports federation, and funding/finances were mentioned along with the possible approaches

See TAN on Page 27

# Rollers 1 and 2 upset foes

Peterka

individuals (athletes and stu-

dents' representatives) will

be selected to complete the

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com

ead coach Joe Diaz has all the reasons to smile and relax after going through back-to-back tough games \_at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Saturday, as the NMI Rollers is already assured of the boys U18 title in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament.



Rollers the No. 1 seed and

670 Sonics, 47-45, while Rollers 1 duplicated the former's feat in the second semis game after downing No. 2 seed Ol'Aces 1, 63-58, to arrange a family affair in the division finals. Rollers 1 and 2 disputed the championship last night, but results of the match were unavailable at

press time "I think it will be the first time that both Rollers teams will battle for the championship," Diaz said in an interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday afternoon before the 7pm finale.

"We were not expecting the two upsets, but we came more prepared for the semis, especially the mental part of the game. We lost to them in the elimination round, so we prepared how are we going to break their defense and capitalize on their weaknesses,"

Of the two semis games, the first one was the closest, as it was not decided until the last few seconds of the match.

A split from Merrick Toves broke the last deadlock, 45-44, 49.1 seconds left in the game. The Sonics then had two chances to regain the lead, but Christian Bravo muffed a point-blank shot on a fastbreak play and also missed his putback.

The Rollers 2 also faltered on the other end, giving the Sonics another opportunity to score. However, Khristian Itaas' long pass to Jadiael Manalo was too strong and the ball went out of the baseline, returning possession to the Rollers 2, down to the last 17.3 seconds of the thrilling match.

With the Rollers 2 having the ball and the clock advantage, 670 Sonics gambled on giving up fouls and eventually

See ROLLERS 1 on



Rollers 2's Merrick Toves, third left, is fouled by the 670 Sonics' Jadiael Manalo while going up for a shot in the closing minute of their semis game in the boys U18 division of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

# Full support to new leadership

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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Local and regional sports associations and a CNMI athlete have extended their support to the new NMSA board.

"PGC is very pleased to hear that Mr. Jerry Tan is the new president of NMSA. We have known Jerry for many years and are confident that we will work successfully with him to deliver a great Mini Games in 2021," Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue said.

CNMI athlete Bobby Cruz, who represented the Commonwealth in regional tournaments in outrigger canoe and tennis, is elated with the election of Tan.

'Jerry Tan is an exceptional leader so I am excited to learn that he will be leading NMSA now. I have worked with him in different projects in the past and his passion and commitment to getting things done is admirable. He has a heart for our people's health and wellness through sports and his concern for the CNMI in general makes him a perfect fit to lead an organization such as NMSA," Cruz said.

Paddling head Justin Andrew echoed Cruz's sentiments and is pleased with the composition of the new board.

"The new board is made up of a good cross section of our community. We have active athletes, seasoned community volunteer workers, a very successful businessman, and a former politician who understands the intricacies of how a government operates," said Andrew, who is on serving on the NMSA board for the second time.

"With Mr. Jerry Tan at the helm, he brings a treasure trove of very valuable business practice lessons and know-how and solid work ethics that I believe will really help NMSA chart a new course that will benefit our community as well as our athletes," the former NMSA vice president said.

The athletics family has also expressed its support to the new NMSA board and at the same time acknowledged the work of its predecessor headed by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Michael White.

"The NMA extends its sin-

See FULL on Page 27